

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2009, 4:00 P.M.**  
**Acton Town Hall**

Present: Bettina Abe, Joan Cirillo, Dave Cochrane, Bob Guba, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge (minute-taker), Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman

Meeting minutes: The August minutes were approved.

8-Green Community Service Day: Several crews of Allan Warner's eighth-graders will help out at Pratt's Brook (woodchips), Grassy Pond (woodchips), and Guggins (woodchips, buckthorn removal, and removal of dirt from around boardwalk stringers). Bettina will also have a crew working at the Arboretum.

EMS workday: An EMS crew has put in a 12-foot boardwalk on the upper blue trail at Nagog Hill. Philip suggested that Bob write up a brief account of the project and that we thank them on our website and perhaps provide a web link. He also offered to create a certificate of appreciation to present to EMS.

Possible Eagle Scout projects: There are currently two Eagle Scouts looking for projects with us. Ideas offered included a short boardwalk along the loop trail in the northern part of the Town Forest; a boardwalk at Nagog Hill along the access trail by Hy-Bid Farm that would be narrow enough to allow horse traffic alongside it; a boardwalk in a very rocky stretch of the loop trail at Pratt's Brook at the end of Broadview Road; more boardwalk segments on the blue and red trails at Guggins; a boardwalk along the loop trail at Great Hill behind 380 Mass. Avenue (Concord Family and Youth Services); and upgrading of the boardwalk on the Nashoba Brook loop trail near the stone chamber, involving stabilizing and adding to the three unsecured segments that are already there. Bettina mentioned that one of the Eagle Scouts, John Russell, whom she knows, wants to work on the Quail Ridge trail, but Jim said that we are not ready to do work there at this time; Bettina will talk with him about other possibilities.

Tom noted that the Conservation Commission has signed off on the viewing platform at Robbins Mill and that two Eagle Scouts have been assigned to finish off the trail (utilizing geowebbing) that will lead to the platform.

Charter update: Jim reported that the LSCom charter subgroup (Jim, Joan, and Philip) has shortened and made more succinct the wording about the Committee's purpose. Finalizing the charter is moving slowly because we are working on it at the same time that the Board of Selectmen is revising the Town's Committee Handbook.

Meadows: Bob reported that Town workers have mowed the Heath Hen Meadow meadows but stated that the mowers did not get close enough to the stone walls. It was suggested that we compile a list of mowing do's and don'ts to define what constitutes a good mowing job. As an idea for an eventual meadow management plan, Jim suggested that we might alternate cutting different halves of the larger meadows each year, so the full meadow is cut only once every two years. Philip offered to create a meadow mowing map.

Jim stated that he will check in with the McConnors to see whether they have mowed the meadow behind Hy-Bid Farm yet.

Grassy Pond vandalism: The Grassy Pond kiosk was pushed over, and, at the viewing platform, knife marks were carved into the railings and benches, the plastic caps covering the tops of the metal posts were removed, and trash was thrown into the pond. Bob has left a message reporting the incidents at the police station.

Damaged sign at Wetherbee: Bob and Tom agreed that the damaged sign at Wetherbee should be replaced in the coming year; accordingly, there is no need to repair it or to give the exposed portions a coat of paint or preservative.

Briar Hill Road access trail at Spring Hill: Bob has spoken with Roland Bartl at the Planning Department and has confirmed that the short path into Spring Hill at the end of Briar Hill Road (off Davis Road) is a public way, so the trail can be put on the map as an access trail.

Public access point at Milldam cul-de-sac: Bob also noted (apropos of the Briar Hill Road discussion) that the trail at Nashoba Brook leading from the Milldam cul-de-sac to the loop trail at the stone chamber is a public way and could be noted on our map as an access trail.

Blazing: Peggy and Bettina reported that they have finished blazing the Pacy loop trail and the access trail from Central Street, and, at Grassy Pond, they have reblazed the blue trail and the Newtown Road access trail from the end of the boardwalk to the junction with the loop trail.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 4:00 PM.