

7/24/10

17

Minutes of Morrison Farm Site Walk

Saturday, July 10, 2010 at 10:30 AM

PRESENT: Lauren Rosenzweig Morton, Chair  
Michael Gowing, Vice Chair, Terra Friedrichs, Clerk, Janet Adachi

Tom Tidman, Natural Resources Director

Public Attendees: Charles and Angela Aaronson  
Maya Spies, Kitty and Bob Cunkelman, Alfred Shcattschneider, Ann Forbes

Tom Tidman led us on a tour of the barn and the house and discussed some of the structural issues pointed out by the consulting architect in the report. We all looked at an overview of the plan on several of the large maps. Tom then led us over to Ice House Pond along the Concord Road sidewalk. He pointed out the old Paddock Area, and indicated that this area was identified for parking because it would allow the cars to be parked somewhat below grade, and the trees that would be cut for the most part are ones that are not doing so well and would likely need to come down in the near future anyway. At Ice House Pond we walked a bit into the trail that fishermen use to walk around the pond. It goes most of the way around the pond and back toward Morrison Farm. However, it is wet in some places and would need a boardwalk to be passable. We discussed the idea of a boardwalk/trail all the way around the pond and agreed that such a path would be suitable for pedestrians but not bicycles. Our concensus was that riders on the Bruce Freeman trail would park their bicycles and walk through Morrison.

Within the foundation of the old Ice House the possibility exists of constructing a playground. East Acton has no nearby playgrounds, so a playground would be a nice amenity, especially in close proximity to the Bruce Freeman rail trail and the East Acton Village area.

We then walked back to the Morrison Farm property and toured the "wet meadow". Tom pointed out the invasive species, and explained what one typically finds in this habitat.

We walked adjacent to the organic community gardens and observed the orchard planted in honor of former State Senator Pam Resor. The possibility exists to expand the orchard. The possibility also exists to expand the organic gardens. There is a waiting list of people who would love to be given a space in there.

We then walked to the area of the proposed athletic fields. The remaining area past the orchard and the organic gardens is a grassy meadow up to the stone wall. Past the stone wall is forest.

The area around the bend in the meadow is large and flat. It is flat enough to turn into fields with little more than mowing it down to grass, and possible minor smoothing/seeding. It is now a meadow with wildflowers and is bordered by trees.

From there we walked to the forested area. Trails already exist. Easy to do a loop back to the meadow. Some trails go deeper into the woods. Tom pointed out where the old abutment of a bridge is located. The bridge if reconstructed would allow access back to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and Great Road.

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At 11:45 AM we adjourned and drove over to the Public Safety Building for a Team Building Workshop.

Submitted by: Lauren Rosenzweig Morton