

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

April 4, 2013

Nipmuc High School Gathering Room; 7:30 pm

Members Present: Matthew Bachtold, Scott Heim, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Bill Taylor

Visitor: Mary Overholt

1. Community Garden: 8 individuals want plots; 3 parties not heard from, including United Parish. Work day planned from April 21 to fill 2 new beds. Notice looking for new gardeners to be placed in Town Crier. As in the past, there will be no charge for plots this year. We may ask for a voluntary contribution next year if the Revolving Fund is approved by Town meeting.
2. Forest Management: ConCom/LSC has inquired about an UMass program in which UMass students would inventory forests on Upton open space. There is no cost but program is competitive, with a decision by Paul C expected in November. The students would do the field work would be done in early 2014.
3. WBCA Site visit with Mike Sawyers in May. Grafton (Pell Farm) to be invited.
4. Goss Pond: Trail connection. Meet on Green Lane, 9am on April 21. Mary C (from RecCom to join us. She is also an abutter.
5. Pratt Pond CA: Disk golf at Kiwanis beach is once again under consideration by RecCom.
6. Stefans/Whitney: Discussion about how to mow trails. Ask DPW? Purchase high grass or brush mower? Use turtle friendly methods, especially at Stefans.
7. Stefans: need to plan multiple work days for invasive control (herbicide), hedge row clearing, and removal of large trees which have falling into fields. Should use 2 person teams, minimum, at all times fro safety.
8. WBCA: Property stewards (the Mahers) will do spring trail cleanup.
9. SWF/Whitney fence: Sale of the farm is progressing. New owners may not have horses in the pasture, so fence railing may not be needed. AMC Worcester would like to put up a small plaque in recognition of their contribution. Motion approved. MS to review/approve design and wording.
10. Whitney/Howarth CA: The girl scouts will be doing a signage project. They will provide everything but the lumber. LSC will purchase whatever they need for the project. LSC authorized MS to spend \$100 for lumber.
11. Recreational Trail Grant: The state asked for more information for second level review. Requested information was provided.
12. Safety: MP to send AHA examples to WT.
13. SWF Parking Area: Still only one bid so far. Mike Barnard (contractor from Millbury) may bid. Ca. \$7,500 is available in the MLT fund for the project. Alternative sources of funding discussed: Conservation Fund? Beautification Fund (which was initially donated to town by a Whitney, Ella Whitney Risteen!).
14. MS and WT to attend a trails conference at Devens.
15. Whitney East/Howarth CA/USF: New, illegally cleared and marked trails noted on all three properties. (Pink Dots and Orange Flagging). LSC to remove the flagging from town land. DCR is aware of problem.
16. Nipmuc HS Environmental Club: WT, MS, MP, and Ellen Arnold invited to attend to talk about forest management. Students from the school are preparing a presentation for the state Envirothon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.