

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

January 3, 2013

Nipmuc High School Gathering Room; 7:30 pm

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

1. OSC Annual Report: Draft 2012 report prepared by MS approved, with minor corrections.
2. WBWCA Stewards: Cindy Maher does not want to be a LSC member but she and her husband would like to be stewards of the WBCA. Need to review LSC charter to determine what kind of appointment is needed from ConCom and/or BOS. They will need to sign a liability waiver. Stewards should keep in close contact with LSC and advised to ask for help when needed.
3. Stefans Farm: Bill not yet received for 2012 mowing. Cost is ca. \$700/day. Need to evaluate need for further mowing in the spring.
4. Stefans Farm: Upcoming Eagle Scout bridge project on trail beyond upper field. It is an intermittent stream crossing and will be included in the NOI being prepared for the entire property. BVW occurs upstream of the crossing, but not at the crossing.
5. Completed Bridge Projects: Bridges at Whitney (West) and Peppercorn (Mill River) are finished and COCs have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds.
6. WBCA (Oak Knoll Access): Ken G. is working on it and reports that it is complicated. MS to ask for monthly updates. Eventually we will need to survey bounds and make sure the trail access is on the parcel.
7. WBCA (Chace Issue): Chase fence was knocked down and Chase would like ConCom to endorse a sign asking the fence be respected (request made to both Upton and Grafton ConComs). Issue to be discussed by ConCom.
8. Forest Management Policy: Meeting to discuss policy with BOS scheduled for January 8.
9. Whitney CA: The pasture fence is done, except for top rail and a 120 ft section of fence that will run N-S along the western boundary with Sweetwilliam Farm. An NOI is needed because part of fence is in wetland. Nothing new on parking area. In general trails behind the store lot and on Whitney-West need to be improved for equestrian use.
10. SWF: Store lot dumpster still located well inside trail easement. The LSC decided that BT would call and let owner know we have concerns.
11. Howarth Conservation Area: Alan Miano will relocate a section of trail that is on his property. MS has walked area with him.
12. Peppercorn Hill CA: Work date proposed to visit top of hill and evaluate visia pruning options. Visit to occur either this winter or spring before leaf out.
13. Managing ATV use: FUSF is looking into buying an ATV for Policy Department to aid enforcement of ATV restrictions on USF.
14. Recreation Trails Program Grant Application: MS and Cathy Taylor working on grant proposal to fund kiosks and signage at multiple Conservation Areas and Heritage Park.
15. Trail System: BT asked MP to determine length of our trail system (most trails have been mapped and are on GIS).
16. December 6, 2012 Minutes approved with minor corrections.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.