

## Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

July 11, 2013

Nipmuc High School Gathering Room; 7:30 pm

Members Present: Scott Heim, Mary Overholt, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Bill Taylor

Visitors: Barry Desilets; Tom Foley

1. Goss Pond/Green Lane Access: Tom Foley informed LSC that he has had his bounds surveyed. The edge of town owned land on Green Lane is about 10 ft from his driveway. The previous owner had installed landscaping and underground irrigation system on town owned land. Mr. Foley presented pictures of the area showing survey stakes. MS read from June 6 meeting minutes that the LSC had voted to construct a connecting trail from Green lane. Mr. Foley said that kids from the neighborhood have been asking him “where the trail is”. He asked LSC if MS had talked with C. Henderson. Answer: no. Mr. Foley plans to talk with the BOS. Site walk tentatively scheduled for Sunday August 4 at 10 a.m.
2. LSC Handbook: MS working on it. Examples from several towns available.
3. WBCA/WCA: The east west connecting trail is open. MS to let BSTRRA know. Trail still needs a bit of work.
4. Work Dates: July 14 (Whitney); July 20 (Stefans); July 22 (Whitney).
5. Website: MS draft notice asking people not to clear/mark their own trails on town owned land.
6. Mountain Bike Trails: Discussion about designating specific trails for mountain bikes. Consensus was that this is not high on LSC priority list.
7. Safety: Safety section to be incorporated into LS handbook. Various AHA’s available to work from. Safety gear from chain saw use not purchased (it will be required but will be byo. LSC voted to purchase hard hats for chain saw spotters, if none are available from DPW.
8. FY budget: ended FY year with a \$58 balance. Much pressure treated lumber purchased. Hand held radios not purchased. Motion made to purchase three hand held radios for \$100 approved.
9. Trail Naming: Need to talk with ConCom about policy for naming trails. LSC We has previously approved trail names at Peppercorn and “Poirier path” at SWF. Do we need a trail log??
10. Land Stewards: MP volunteered to be the steward for Howarth Glen. Someone may be interested in being steward for Whitney West.
11. Eagle Scout Projects: small gifts of recognition (not to exceed \$25) approved. List of scout projects to be added to website (there are about 10proejects to list). MP to do GIS map showing project locations.
12. Thank you gift (\$25 gift certificate) to Mr. Howarth for help transport the supplies for the Whitney boardwalk was approved. The 16 ft. long boardwalk was constructed with help of Americorp Crew and several volunteers on June 30.
13. Memorial bench policy: Copies of Acton policy provided fro discussion. Discussion to continue at next meeting.
14. Forest Management Policy: The policy was approved by ConCom.
15. U Mass Forestry Students: Tom J. coordinating with Paul C. of U Mass.
16. Forest Conference: Saturday September 28. Any attendees from LSC to pay registration fee with their own funds.
17. Stefans: Idea of constructing artificial barn swallow nesting habitat on the west parcel suggested by MP. Possible scout project? MP to research possible designs.

18. Whitney East: Discussion about whether or not to maintain small field along trail as field habitat. Suggestion made by MP to plant a white oak (which is being grown from a seedling collected from underneath the large white oak at Stefans) in the field as part of Whitney dedication this fall. Decision on how to maintain the field was deferred until after a site visit could be held.
19. SWF: The farm has new owners (Lam family). Introductory meeting/ site walk with them (and SVT) scheduled for July 24.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.