

## Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

March 14, 2013

Nipmuc High School Cafeteria; 7:40 pm

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

1. Student Conservation Corps Opportunity: MS investigated using program for trails work at Stefans and Whitney. There is a significant cost (\$4,200 minimum) and LSC agreed to pass on the program. AMC/BSTRA may volunteer at Whitney.
2. Trails Grant: There is 6-7 K still available to be spent at Stefans. Funds need to be spent this calendar year.
3. Forest Management Policy: ConCon held hearing last night. It was lightly attended. Bob Snow raised preservationist concerns.
4. Mike Sawyers of MDFW wants to walk WBCA, Whitney, and Pell Farm. Scheduled for first week in May. Mike S to contact Grafton re Pell Farm participation. MS also asked Mike S. about possible controlled burn at Stefans to improve habitat. He will provide an initial assessment.
5. Whitney: Work day planned for Saturday March 30. Need to obtain info for NOI.
6. Peppercorn CA: Vista pruning at top of hill to improve view discussed. Options include clearing trees to improve view on town owned land, working out an arrangement with the Kelly's for use of existing vista, and/or investigating possibility of a vista from little Peppercorn Hill. LSC decided to put this on hold and address in the Peppercorn Hill stewardship plan.
7. SWF: Parking area bid received from Joe B. \$9,500 (cost of gravel not included). LSC to obtain at least two more additional bids.
8. Community Garden: Revolving fund article for upcoming ATM approved 5-0. A plot may be planted with garlic this fall to raise funds. MB wants to try growing rhubarb (in tires) and maybe asparagus. MB to contact gardeners to see who wants plots this year. Two beds need to be filled and two more could be built this spring. Word date to occur sometime in mid April.
9. Whitney/SWF: Girl Scouts want to do a trail signage project. MS to help them implement the project this spring.
10. Goss Pond: Green Lane trail connection discussed. Site visit to occur in late April (perhaps the 20 or 21<sup>st</sup>).

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.