

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

May 2, 2013

Nipmuc High School Gathering Room; 7:35 pm

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

Other Attendees: Tom Foley; Mary Overholt

1. WBCA/Pell Farm: Site visit with Mike Sawyers (MA DFW) rescheduled. Efforts underway to coordinate with the Grafton ConCom.
2. Upcoming scheduled work dates. Stefans – May 12 (9 am).
3. Flagging and illegal trails: MS/WT noted considerable amount of new unauthorized flagging at USF, Whitney East, Howarth CA, and adjacent private land. Flagging on town land to be removed.
4. SWF/Whitney CA: NOI for work on Whitney (west) submitted to ConCom. Public hearing scheduled for May 8. Whitney parking area: one bid in hand, others expected. SH to investigate possible donation of gravel by Pyne Sand Gravel. No additional fundraising needed at this time (ca. 7.5K is available from MLT). Girl Scout troop scheduled to install signage at Whitney east on May 15. MS has wording for plaque acknowledging AMC contribution towards the Whitney trail system and parking lot.
5. Goss Pond: New trail access via Green Lane discussed (Tom Foley, an abutter, participated in the discussion).
 - MS explained history/ownership of property and provided Foley a copy of relevant documents.
 - There is an existing trail system on property which includes a trail to West River and a partial loop trail around the pond.
 - Site visit with some abutters held last weekend.
 - LSC would create a ca. 250 ft. long trail from Green Lane to tie into existing trail. The new trail would be 3 ft. wide; existing vegetation would screen it from abutters.
 - Bounds delineating the strip of land the town owns off Green Lane could not be located in field and need to be established. Tom Foley may do this along his property line, saving the town the expense.
 - Tom Foley may be willing to be town Land Steward for the property.
 - There is no evidence of ATV use on existing Goss Pond trails. ATVs do use the adjacent gravel pit.
 - There are at 2-3 docks on the pond which were installed without permits and which are on town property. LSC to defer any enforcement action to ConCom.
 - No decision made on whether or not to construct connecting trail.
6. Stefans: NOI for trail improvements in prep. MS and MP identified new location for the mitigation area.
7. Peppercorn: Need to remove large blue plastic trash barrel that has been near top of hill for several years.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.