

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

October 4, 2013

Nipmuc HS Gathering Room; 7:35 pm

Members Present: Matthew Bachtold, Mary Overholt, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, Bill Taylor; Cathy Taylor

1. Historical Commission Cultural Council Grant Application: CT is preparing grant application for filmmaker Ted Timmerman to make a film about the Upton Chamber, and stone features on Pratt Hill and perhaps elsewhere in town. She requested a letter of support from the LSC. Motion made and approved 6:0 to send a letter of support to the Cultural Council. MS authorized to finalize the letter.
2. Community Garden: Milk crates need to be returned. MB to call Ken Picard. MS and BT to fill a bed and plant with garlic this fall. Possible construction of an additional elevated bed in 2014 discussed (fill with loader not by hand!). One bed was being top-dressed with raw compost this year and a gardener complained. LSC took no position on this issue. Mike to mow parking area. Glen B. donated and delivered 3 CY of topsoil.
3. LSC Handbook: content of handbook discussed, including safety issues.
4. Recruiting Land Stewards: stewards currently are appointed only for Warren Brook and Howarth Glen CA's. Need to work on a communication policy. Monthly email reports, keep tally of volunteer, contact LSC with problems, etc.
5. Goss Pond: MS met with BOS and Green Lane abutter (Foley). Overall meeting went well. Selectmen Fleming to meet on site with Foley and other abutters.
6. Recreational Trail Grant: Upton awarded grant for the Kiosk/Signage project. Congratulations MS!
7. Stefans Farm: Work date scheduled for November 9, at 1 pm.
8. Stefans: The Ryan Flodstrom, Eagle Scout project boardwalk has been completed. Discussion on how large recognition sign/plaque should be? Signage from a previous scout project (Gruber) is satisfactory.
9. Whitney CA Parking Area: MP obtained cost estimates to install guard rails to delineate the parking area (\$1964 from Miller Fence and ca. 3,000 from Ideal Fence). Site visit/Posted meeting scheduled at Whitney for 2pm on October 12 to make a decision on how to delineate the parking area.
10. Stefans: Several volunteers worked to clear a section of hedge row between the large field and field to north.
11. Stefans: MP presented initial alternatives analysis to improve vehicular access. MP to continue the planning process.
12. Stefans: Recreation Trail Grant: MS has asked for an extension that would allow LSC to complete construction in 2014.
13. Howarth Glen CA: The existing Warren Brook bridge has no rails. It is about a 4-5ft. maximum drop (code is 42"). BSTR funded bridge and did not want rails (horses are afraid of them). BT to research issue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm