

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

September 5, 2013

Nipmuc HS Gathering Room; 7:30 pm

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

1. Stefans Farm (Ryan Flodstrom, Eagle Scout project). Ryan is planning to build a boardwalk on the outer loop trail, west of upper field. He worked independently with no recent communication with the LSC. He needs to finish project by end of September. Permit or approval needed from ConCom. LSC is preparing NOI for multiple projects at Stefans, including Ryan's. Ryan will haul materials to site this weekend but not construct until he meets with BOS and gets ConCom approval.
2. MS to work on project guide or checklist for boy scout projects. In general communication with scouts has been excellent.
3. Goss Pond: Meeting with BOS, Goss Pond residents, and LSC scheduled for September 17th. Existing landscaping off Green Lane is on town land: LSC voted 5:0 to allow owner to maintain the landscaping. Discussion about location of future kiosk and plaque honoring the Henderson family. LSC preferred it to be near road, perhaps a mini-kiosk. There was concern about vandalism if it was not visible from the road. Discussion about the historic chimney, which is on private land. BT to talk with Historical Commission about its significance. Possibly of negotiating an easement deed with land owner to preserve the chimney discussed. Motion made to investigate the option of preserving the chimney using a land swap or easement deed. Approved 5:0. LSC will consider adding a loop trail to the existing Goss Pond trail system. A small boardwalk is needed for a wetland crossing on the existing trail.
4. LSC Handbook: MS emailed committee a draft of the handbook for review. Safety guidance is also needed. MP previously provided AHA's (activity hazard analysis).
5. Stefans trail project: work on NOI underway.
6. Stefans (Orchard Street access): MP suggested the LSC develop a plan to access property from frontage the town owns on Orchard Street. A stream channel/ravine crossing would be required. MP to investigate further. Probably too late to develop a proposal for the 2013 fall town meeting. Consider eventually applying for CPA funds.
7. Whitney: LSC to contact Greg Trussel (local landscaper) regarding landscaping options for the parking area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm