

## Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

February 6, 2014

Nipmuc High School: 7:40

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

Others Present: Tom and Dan Coley

1. Tom Coley (Scout Troop 132): Discussion about possible Eagle Scout project at the Stefans Farm Community Garden:
  - a. Tom presented some ideas for improvements to the garden. These included construction of 5 new beds, compost bins, soil/manure storage areas, and mulched walkways,
  - b. Various other ideas discussed, including construction of a second elevated (ca. 4 ft. high) raised bed; stands to elevate rain barrels off ground, installation of traffic safety mirrors, barn swallow nesting structure, senior citizen transportation program. MP not in favor of mulch and compost bins that would block pathways.
  - c. Tom will raise funds for whatever project is ultimately proposed.
  - d. MS to provide to provide Tom with LSC Eagle Scout project guidance.
2. Whitney CA Parking Area
  - a. CT looked at the parking area and thinks area is fine as it is.
  - b. No new information about approval of Kiosks locations from Trails Grant
  - c. MP handed out an alternatives analysis which compared the effectiveness, safety, cost, maintenance, and aesthetics of several alternatives. MS found a 4 - 5 ft. fence with top rail is best for horses.
  - d. There was a discussion about fence alternatives. CT to get a cost estimate from a person she knows.
  - e. If rocks need to be removed from site, Upton DPW has offered to help.
3. Heritage Park Kiosk Design: The park kiosk was included in the trails grant. LSC and the Historical Commission need to agree on a design.
4. Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area: New Eagle Scout project by Ashley Hobert. LSC discussed priority projects: possibilities include a boardwalk and trail relocation project at north end of the trail system (near the bog), replacement of a ca. 1990 vintage boardwalk, kiosks, and signs.
5. Stewardship Handbook: no activity
6. Eagle Scout Project guidance: feedback still needed.
7. Stefans Farm – Orchard Street Access: Alternatives discussed. Based on site visit with town engineer, a heavy duty stream crossing required to access property via Orchard Street would cost 40 – 80K. Given this, the alternative was tabled. LSC will not ask CPA for funding at this time. Gaining access through the Foye property discussed. Motion to

contract Josh Foye seconded and approved. Also, a low cost boardwalk could be constructed to cross the stream for foot/equestrian traffic.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Approved:

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