

Meeting Minutes – Upton Land Stewardship Committee

January 9, 2014

Nipmuc Media Center: 7:40 pm

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

Others Present: Bob and Michelle Potheau

1. Whitney CA Parking Area
 - a) Safety of Rope Barrier: BP talked with horse “expert”...a rope barrier would be very dangerous. A guardrail would also be dangerous as would be stones, if too low.
 - b) BP: there have been problem with recreational users over the last month (people approaching house, blocking driveway, and dumping trash). He was expecting to be protected by a fence and will install is own, if necessary.
 - c). BP: concerned about design of the information kiosk.
 - d) Alternatives: all agreed ropes not appropriate and no longer an alternative; car stops? fencing? BP against shortening length of existing boulder delineated lot and spacing out the boulders.
 - e) MP: if boulders must be removed, the Potheau's share some responsibility for this expense because they had originally agreed to installation of a boulder barrier. BT disagrees. BT – we need to move on.
 - f) BP has some different recollections of the October 12 meeting when use of boulders was agreed upon. Member of the LSC recall some of his statements, but not others. It was likely partially a communications failure.
 - g) Alternatives to consider: Bumpers (car stops), wire fence 4 or 5 ft high with or without top rail; more widely spaced boulders (MP’s alternative proposed in December). MS and BP to consult with horse people on safety of the alternatives.
2. Heritage Park: Scout is proposing a kiosk (which is covered by the RT grant). Scout should coordinate with LSC; there should be a standard Kiosk design for all locations.
3. Eagle Scout Project Checklist: MS will send it to some scouts who have been through the process.
4. Snow Conservation Area Violation: MP and friend encountered person on property with truck who was cutting firewood. MP asked him to leave the wood. The man is an abutter and he said he had permission from Snow’s. MO to talk with Snow’s. MP also noted ORV damage to one of the Snow Conservation Area vernal pools.
5. Land Stewardship Handbook: Appendices assignments: Maps and Goss Pond description (MP); Safety (SH); Invasive plant fact sheets (CT), First aid (BT).
6. 2013 Annual Report: MS circulated draft for review and comment. MS authorized to submit report, with discretion to incorporate any additional comments/corrections received.
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:42

Note: A posted December 20, 2013 LSC meeting to discuss the Whitney parking area was not held.

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