

Land Stewardship Committee  
January 5, 2015  
Draft Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Bill Johnson.

Members present: George. Goss, Don Segal, Bill Johnson, Paul Mei, Heather Allore, David Bell

Excused:

Alternate present: Douglas. Clark

Alternate absent: Amy Greenleaf

Staff Present: Kevin Magee, Environmental Planner

Staff: Michelle C. Nazario, recording secretary

1. Approval of Agenda: B. Johnson made motion to approve agenda and P. Mei seconded, it was unanimously voted to approve the agenda.
2. Approval of Minutes: B. Johnson made a motion to approve meeting minutes from November 3, 2014 and seconded by D. Clark it was unanimously approved.
3. Public Forum: No one present
4. Chairperson's Report: B. Johnson had no new information to report.
5. GCC Liaison – P. Mei reported that he was sworn in as a member of the Conservation Commission and was appointed Land Stewardship Liaison. He reports there is a project with Audubon Society and DEEP to protect an eagle's nest. It is still active this winter and comes under Federal and DEEP regulations to protect the eagles. There is a possibility of some funding for a camera to be put by the eagles nest to be watched by public via internet access. Currently there is a camera in the West Haven/New Haven line. Audubon is looking to refurbish the Osprey platforms. They have refurbished 4 of them, but need volunteers to finish the remaining platforms.
6. CFPA Liaison Report – Paul Mei – stated there will be a class on Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm indoors. This will be about tool management, how to use them and carry them as well as design and maintenance of trails. If interested please sign up with Clare Cain from Connecticut Forest & Park Association. B. Johnson will put a memo out to volunteers.

P. Mei will be leading a Valentine's Hike on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 9:00am. The meeting place will be at Braemore parking lot and hiking up Bluff Head. It will be about a 6 mile loop.

7. Environmental Planner's Report – K. Magee reported that the holes in East River Preserve have been completed. Some rocks have been put back into place which will deter ATV's and others from trails not made for them.

Public Works took out larger tree that fell across Bearhouse Hill Road by the fields and removed the tree that fell into the East River. Also with the help of the tractor, Public Works cleared out brush growing along the edge of Bearhouse Hill Road.

Timberland and East River Preserve Maps are up on the web page. Font size on a 8.5 x 11 map is too small to read. A printable trail map needs to be created and may need help from a graphic artist. H. Allore asked if there is money in the GCC budget to help out source this.

P. Mei asked about Braemore Maps.

B. Johnson asked if poster size maps can be laminated and brought to meetings so the commission can see at what trails are being talked about.

K. Magee asked if any requests for clearing of brush and taking down of trees if he could be copied on the emails.

K. Magee also spoke about two upcoming positions of Land Steward and Land Steward Assistant. Each position will be 19 hours a week with a possibility of year round. They share similar job descriptions but is separated by hourly rate, schooling and experience. It is still in the approval stage and has to go to the Board of Selectman. K. Magee is looking to hire the position sometime in May of 2015.

K. Magee is also aware of situation at James Valley where the resident damaged neighbors bushes along a woods road that he believes that he has access to. Research had to be conducted to determine if the woods road was on town property or land trust. The conclusion of the research is that the wood road was on town property.

8. Budget, materials & supplies – K. Magee stated that budget hasn't changed and is about ½ way through the budget.

Hammerlund cut the field at Braemore and had been paid for his services. There are some bushy vegetation to be cleared this year hopefully during the Spring/Fall.

K. Magee will order the Hazel Hoe.

K. Magee will also order the paint colors of red, purple and white for the trail markings through Hart Supply Company Inc. in Hingham, MA 02043 (781)749-4000.

9. Volunteers update- B. Johnson stated that there are no new volunteers

10. Properties:

A. Timberland- B. Johnson reported on the orange trail the rope has been installed to help with going up a steep hill. Five stairs have been put in on this steep hillside. Need to keep an eye on planks on the bridges as well as the bridges themselves. There are some down trees and a Trex plank broken on the “blue x” trail bridge. G. Goss will help out with cutting down of tree with his chain saw. A suggestion is to take picture of what needs to be fixed on trail so it can be documented and GPS located.

D. Clark noted that there may be some illegal ATV activity on the yellow trail.

B. Braemore -. The woody vegetation in the field needs to be removed.

C. James Valley- Discussed in K. Magee report above.

D. Meyer Huber-P. Mei asked that the trails on the Meyer Huber Property be placed on the same map as Braemore Preserve.

E. Northwoods trail map revision project – K. Magee to check with Sarah Williams for update on trails.

F. East River Preserve – H. Allore reported illegal trails are sprouting up, can boundary signs be put up?

11. Other Business: news, suggestions, new agenda items, etc

D. Bell discussed a section of the Totoket trail that he would like to create on the Dudley Preserve. Kevin Magee indicated that a plan needs to be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to any flagging of the trail.

12. Action plans / work parties- H. Allore will host a work party on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 9:00 am to continue with constructing kiosk. Heather will be renting a heater from Country Paint and Hardware so that they can work in her garage. Kevin Magee asked that the kiosk be made to hold a 24’x 36” poster.

B. Johnson needs length of board to fix Trex bridge board and will be coordinating work party to remove down trees in Timberland.

Adjournment: Then, with no further business before it, upon a motion by B. Johnson and seconded by D. Bell it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Nazario

The next meeting of the LSC will be **Monday, March 2, 2015**