

DATE: April 4, 2024
TIME: 9:10 AM

LMC Minutes March 13, 2024

Attendees:

Members: Radha Iyengar, Tom Grimble, Steve Kidder, Adriana Bobinchock, Michael Macht-Greenberg, Mark Smith,

Other Attendees: Adam Glick, Leonard Katz, Joe Hibbard, Nancy Kougeas

The first three items on agenda were postponed until a quorum was present.

4. Lower Coal Road erosion - Mclean Hospital has hired an engineer to look at the drainage issues coming from their property to the upper part of the Coal Road. Working to schedule a meeting that will, if possible, include Joe Hibbard, Michael, the engineer, and, if possible, Tom Grimble.

5. Leonard gave an update on the work of the invasives working group. Leonard requested permission to pull ground cover *Akebia quinata* (chocolate vine). While this plant is not on the invasive species list, it is not native to this area and spreads quickly. A motion was made to approve removal of the chocolate vine from along the Coal Road by Tom Grimble, seconded by Radha Iyengar, and then approved by all members in attendance.

1. Having reached a quorum, the minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Tom Grimble, seconded by Radha Iyengar, and passed unanimously by all members present.

2. Radha Iyengar reported there were no invoices for approval this month.

3. Tom Grimble and Radha Iyengar had not yet updated the financials, so there was no financial report given.

15. Item 15 on the agenda related to invasives removal was moved forward as it related to the previous discussion. Joe Hibbard reported he was contacted by Parterre as they were interested in finding an area where they could train their employees on invasive removal. This request fit in with the previous agreement by Joe to the committee to remove invasives from area B-5 this year. Parterre agreed this area suited their needs and said they would conduct the training on Friday, March 15th. Tom moved approval of authorizing Parterre to conduct their training in area B-5, Radha seconded the motion and the motion was approved by all members present.

6. Adam Glick, a vice president of the New England Mountain Bike Association, provided an update on planned trail work for the upcoming season. The current plan is to have club members undertake at least 2 days of trail maintenance, one in spring and one in the fall. Adam would first help survey the trails to identify areas of erosion or otherwise needing repair and prioritize those most in need. This led to a discussion of heavily used areas, including near the parking lot on Mill Street. Tom and others discussed possibly realigning trails coming from the parking lot. There was general interest in this idea and reminder that it might be good to inform the Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) before any new trails were approved and built.

Adam also reported he is planning to build two kiosks for signage at LTH, which he expects will be finished by May 1st. There was discussion of the need to update current signs before installing them on the new kiosks. The Committee looked forward to review revised signs and/or maps at the next Committee meeting.

7. Verizon Cell Tower Enclosure. Adrianna reported she needed to check to see what progress, if any, has been made related the encloser being unlocked/open. She will report back at a future meeting.

8. Dumping. The committee continued discussion from a previous meeting about installing ‘no dumping’ signs in the parking lot on Mills Street. Having signs installed will allow the police to take action should they see anyone in the act of dumping debris on LTH property. After a brief discussion, Tom moved, and Radha seconded a motion to pay for 1 ‘no dumping’ sign, estimated cost \$120. The motion was approved by all members present.

9. Tree blow downs. Radha thanked McLean for their quick response in helping address some tree blow down removals. Tom inquired whether there was any update on remaining fallen trees that were blocking paths. No one knew of any that had not been addressed.

On a related issue, Radha Iyengar reported that a tree in the Pine Alley had been severely damaged by wind – and shared a photo of the tree with a broken trunk that was leaning against another trees. As this represented a danger to safety, Radha had requested DPW to remove this hazard immediately – the exact cost was unknown but will be shared at the next meeting.

10. Update on encroachment from Vernon Road. Tom reported he has tried to reach the appropriate town official but has still not connected.

11. Proposals for work in 2024. Radha Iyengar reported on three proposals that she had received for work in the coming year. One is a proposal from Nunez for the routine mowing of paths. Nunez is suggesting the number of mowing increase from 8 per season to 10 for this coming year. The cost would be \$4250.

The second proposal was from Parterre for invasive removal in area B-5. This would be a herbicide treatment to follow-up on the by-hand invasive removal expected to happen on March 15th and by volunteers later in the year. The cost would be \$5,850.

The third proposal was from Tree Specialist for the purchasing of white pines and their time for the 10th Annual Volunteer Day organized by the Belmont Citizens Forum in conjunction with the Judy Record Conservation Fund. The white pines will be planted along the Meadow Edge Trail to provide an additional visual shield from the neighboring properties. The cost is expected to be \$7,080. This cost is expected to be 100% reimbursed by the Judy Record Fund.

Tom Grimble moved approval of the three proposals – Nunez, Parterre, and Tree Specialists. Radha Iyengar seconded and the motion was approved by all members present.

12. TTOR Report – Radha Iyengar reported that the annual report by TTOR on the status of the property as it relates to the conservation easement had arrived and been distributed to committee

members. She asked if there were any questions or concerns. None were expressed by those present.

13. Radha Iyengar reported on the plans for the upcoming volunteer work day. She mentioned the financial approval for purchase the trees for this event had been made as part of the other proposals (see item 11 on this agenda)

14. Radha Iyengar reported she had inquired about the status of the transfer of funds from the Joan Cambell fund to the LTH account. Steve agreed to reach out to Ellen to follow-up on this matter. There was agreement the request to should be submitted to Pamela at the town?

There a motion by Tom, seconded by Steve, to request the funds be transferred. The motion was approved by all members present.

16. Annual report: Radha Iyengar reported the 2023 Annual Report had been submitted to the town

17. Zone 3 Boundary: There was a discussion about the zone 3 boundary between McLean Hospital and LTH properties. It is expected the McLean will begin some new construction in this area – and there are some areas where construction and other debris has been dumped on their property near the boundary. Leonard asked whether boundary markers should be installed. After some discussion, the general consensus was that this was not needed at this time – in part because of it was not clear of the potential threat to LTH property and in part because of the cost of surveying and marking the true boundary. There was general agreement to have the committee visit this area in the spring, possibly on May 1 in lieu of a regular meeting of the committee.

18. Maintenance and Monitoring. The committee discussed how it might more consistently monitor the status of trails and other aspects of the LTH property. Tom shared two examples of trail surveys that had been completed in 2007 and 2008. There was some brainstorming of how such work might be undertaken, including possibly adding this area to a mobile phone app which can be used by the public to report trail maintenance issues. No final decision was made. Tom Grimble indicated this discussion would be continued at future meetings.

19. Inappropriate use of LTH property: Leonard reported on the existence of inappropriate use of the property near Olmsted Road. It appears that young people have been building fire pits and bike jumps in the area. Leonard cleaned up the area and reported the police and fire department have also visited the area. After some discussion it was agreed a temporary sign would be made and posted in the area to help educate those involved in the proper use and enjoyment of the area.

Tom reminded the committee that the next meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, Wednesday, May 1, and Wednesday, June 5.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.