

## MINUTES – LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

August 23, 2005

Recorded by: Steve Kidder

**Members Present:** Ellen O'Brien Cushman (chairman), Michele Gougeon, Frank Keefe, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder, Martha Moore, Carla Moynihan

**Member Absent:** Richard Pichette

Ellen introduced new members – Martha Moore, ex-officio representative of Conservation Commission. Carla Moynihan – Belmont citizen appointed by Selectmen.

### **Trustees of Reservations**

Wes Ward introduced Wayne Beitler who was in charge of conducting the baseline study of the open space covered by the Conservation Restrictions now held by TTOR and associated documentation.

*Findings:* Wayne conducted two visits of site. Identified boundaries. Documented visits and baseline situation by photographing current conditions.

*Concerns:* On the west side of Mill Street ("McLean farm") there are old barn and a farmhouse building, some old equipment, junk debris.. Wes said there are areas of trash in walls along Mill Street. White house next to barn is quite broken down and not likely able to rehab. Recollection of several members was that house would be used by Fire Department for training and then destroyed though not clear at this point. Need further clarification of boundaries on farm property. Avoid private boundaries of main. Open Space – there are no serious trash issues, perhaps some lawn clippings. White house on east side of Mill Street is technically out of compliance and was an oversight in the CR process. Probably would need an agreement between holder of CR and owner of land. Area that was seeded seems to have taken fairly well. Some invasive species in areas of Open Space such as Buckthorn and Black Swallow wort (?). Site is also somewhat in flux as a result of construction/development and work on Pleasant Street

*Recommendation:* that we have someone look at the issues of invasive species and prepare a plan for dealing with this (specifically including mowing/cutting and application of herbicides) and keep the trails open for use by public. Wes thinks at least some mowing should be done this fall. He will present a document setting forth Baseline findings and look for Town and McLean to agree to these findings. TTOR requires a volunteer to monitor and act as liaison to TTOR. Gene Record has agreed to do so at least for the near future. A replacement will be necessary should Gene be unable/unwilling to continue.

Wes said that an endowment of \$20,000 was identified as necessary by TTOR. Ellen said that they have gift funds from the transfer of land to the Cosman family. A proposal would be made by TTOR to the Town for approval. Funds would be held by the TTOR in a restricted fund. Interest from the Endowment would be used to support minor monitoring expenses by the TTOR.

### **Issue of Funds**

The reported \$300,000 fund set up as part of settlement of appeal of Northland Sewer connection permit was earmarked for McLean land open space projects and sewer improvements at the discretion of the Citizens Forum. Belmont resident Walter McLaughlin recommends that the Land Management Committee send a letter to Belmont Citizens Forum requesting those funds be provided to Land Management Committee for maintenance of Open Space as created in the Memorandum of Agreement.

A MOTION was made to write a letter to the Belmont Citizens Forum to request funds be provided to Land Management Committee for use on the public McLean land..

The MOTION passed unanimously. Ellen Cushman will draft and distribute for review and edit.

Question from Martha Moore/Roger Wrubel regarding the endowment and whether McLean should be providing percentage of endowment funds, given private ownership of a 27% of the publicly accessible CR land . Ellen will check with Town Counsel.

### **Presentation by Gene Record on behalf of Judy Record Fund**

Proposal to fund and place a granite bench at Lone Tree Hill (see attached proposal). Judy Record Fund would pay for installation. Question raised whether permitted by CR. A quick determination by the Committee and in consultation with Wes Ward of TTOR is that this would be permitted under CR B1 A brief discussion ensued regarding the inscription, the color, access to the site, timing, consistency with CR, vista preservation. A series of votes was taken by the LMC with final vote required from TTOR:

VOTE: site is appropriate VOTE: memorial is appropriate as presented.

Wes said TTOR will need to approve memorial as requested under CR.

### **Telecommunications Tower**

Tom Younger has been in contact with FCC and Gridcom FCC wanted a copy of MOA by Massachusetts Historical Commission. In dispute is the color of painting and preservation of the scenic qualities of the site.

### **Ecological Survey Review – Priorities Update**

Tasks set forth in May 2001 Survey (p. 46) and new priority listing for activities Changed priorities are shown in italics below

1. Maintain Open Fields – High Priority
2. Maintain Edge – High
3. Pitch Pine Woodland – Medium
4. *Prune Apple Trees – not on public lands – low*
5. *Forest Thinning Plan – Medium*

6. Selective Forest Thinning – Medium
7. *Install bird houses – Medium*
8. Create Additional snags??? – Medium
9. Japanese knotweed – High
10. *Poison Ivy control – trails only - High*
- (11. Purple Loosestrife Control – Medium
11. Norway Maple Thinning – Medium
12. *Invasives monitoring – High*
13. Pine Allee maintenance – Medium
14. *Cut encroaching plants – High*
15. *Volunteer trail crews – Medium and High*
16. *Parking Areas – Low*
17. Trail Marking (blazes) – High
18. Trail Signage – High
19. *Trail Maps – High*
20. *Pet/Bike – High*
21. Archaeological – Low
22. Stone Wall – Low
23. *Chenery Barn Area maintenance– mowing – High; Other – Low*
24. *Orchard Trees – Low*
25. Lone Tree – High
26. Scenic Viewing Area – High
27. *Property Signage - High*

Question: Stone wall along Pleasant Street – need to make sure wall is protected and in an area where wall needs to be moved to make sure wall is correctly rebuilt. This is required part of the contract for Pleasant Street.

### **Trails**

Scope of Services Draft was sent out in March and to committee again in August. LMC resolved to include the following: services of appropriate trail expert; suggestion to provide specific deliverables for tasks; need to update scope to reflect land has been transferred; new scope will be sent out to members. . New member Carla Moynihan will provide some language to Ellen Cushman reflecting specific deliverables, especially review prior studies (BSC and NEMBA), provide recommendations on pedestrian/bicycle and continue/discontinue uses for each trail and present to committee to facilitate decisions.

### **Andy Healy – call from Fire Chief to clear fire roads**

On routine tour of McLean fire roads there were observed areas where jumps have been created – large areas of digging, tree cutting/felling. McLean notified police who are investigating. Need to set up process, a single point of contact, to allow people to report issues such as these.

Wes Ward said that there is a need for property signage as well as trail signage.

**Frequency of Meetings**

Will set meeting approximately one month from now, pending progress on the above issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.