

McLean Land Management Committee

May 2, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were committee members: Andy Healy, Gene Record (for TTOR), Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Michele Gougeon, Frank Keefe, Richard Pichette, Steve Kidder, Carla Moynihan. Members absent: Martha Moore

Meadow Reclamation

Consultant Jeff Collins of Massachusetts Audubon Extension Service, the meadow reclamation consultant chosen by the LMC provided an overview of his proposed methods to fulfill the contract. In addition to the contract, he provided the committee, through Ellen Cushman, a price per hour of \$60.00 for additional work, including supervision of the meadow work.

In summary, Jeff has been at Mass Audubon for seven years. He provided detailed past experience on other projects. Approach here will be for Jeff to: Spend four hours on site doing specific inventory of plants. He will use GIS to map the specifics.

Use the inventory report in the BSC report to given specific recommendations, including contractors for doing the work.

Jeff identified that there are some federal funding opportunities available for the mowing activities and containment of invasives. When Jeff asked if there are restrictions on the use of herbicides, because they are often very effective and necessary to deal with certain invasives.

Gene asked Jeff to make sure that he gives us his best, unfiltered recommendations. He should not take into mind that the Town's budget situation, herbicide feelings, etc.

Committee had questions for Jeff, discussed the process and the property. Jeff asked the LMC to confirm the priorities as shown in the documents prepared by BSC, revised by the LMC in April. Ellen said that we want to get people to use the newly acquired open space. Many people in town have never even set foot on the property. Richard agreed with Ellen's statement, also wants to think about ways to help people gain access to the property, including places to have bike racks and vehicle parking. Richard also mentioned that the Belmont Hill Club is considering a sale of land parcel to The Trustees of Reservations. There were suggestions that parking opportunities may be found on Pleasant Street.

Committee advised Jeff that the decision about poison ivy is to attempt to control is on the trails only. When the trails decisions are made, the poison ivy discussion will return.

Gene has asked AMCs trails consultant to contact us about possible advice on trails.

Ellen said that the plan is for Jeff to produce a report of recommendations. The LMC would meet to consider the recommendations and prepare an RFP for doing to the required work. His report will include recommendations as to when the work should be done.

Farmhouse Demolition

Ellen briefed the committee about conversations she has initiated with McLean taking down the farmhouse. Community Development has estimated this work would cost approximately \$25,000. McLean has already installed a perimeter fence at the cost of approximately \$5,000. The work would include the demolition, removal of debris and the filling and regrading to be even with surrounding grade.

Eagle Scout Candidate

Ellen informed the committee about a letter she received from an Eagle Scout candidate. He is inquiring of committees for project proposals. After some discussion, the committee decided to submit a proposal for the entrance pathway from the telecomm tower to the Great Meadow, left of the fire road to reveal the historic wall. Ellen will write up the proposal, submit photos, etc. Response timetable is anticipated to be May 15th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting scheduled for May 22, 2006 at 5:30 pm in advance of Town Meeting. Members should be alert to location change for that meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Kidder