

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

February 13, 2007

Members Attending:

Andy Healy
Martha Moore
Carla Moynihan
Wes Ward

Members not attending:

Michele Gougeon
Steve Kidder
Frank Keefe

Others in attendance: Mike Tasaczynski, Bob Delise, Dix Campbell, Liz Allison, Kit Dreier, Gene Record, Roger Wrubel, Jeanne Mooney, Tom Grimble.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The Minutes of the April 18, 2006 and October 19, 2006 were unanimously accepted by the committee.

Trails Discussion:

Carla Moynihan discussed details for the process and plans for Request for Qualifications Comprehensive Trail System Analysis and Implementation Plan.

It was decided that the following deliverables will be the responsibility of the Selected Consultant for RFQ's :

- Assessment of existing trails located on the Subject property
- Summary of all current and future abutting land users and connection points to Subject Property
- Creation of a maintenance plan for the proposed trail system and estimated budget
- Preparation of an oversight budget for a consultant to oversee the final build/design phase of the proposed trail system once design is approved by LMC

Dix Campbell discussed the Pictometry International Program that is currently used by the Town of Belmont office of Community Development. Jeff Wheeler is the town's liaison to LMC therefore Ellen Cushman to contact Jeff in this regard to see if usable for trails work.

Tom Grimble suggested that we contact Professional Trail Builders Association to communicate the RFP for trails. submit-a-proposal.

Ellen recommended that anyone who has any suggestions for Consultants please forward names to her via E-mail ASAP.

Wes Ward recommended that full property history not be included in RFQ package.

Bob Deliese asked about guiding principles – are they a part of the RFQ?

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Carla assured that a skeleton form would it was be part of the appendix but that we want the trails consultant to be unbridled with past discussions and too much history.

The following timeline was agreed for the RFP dates:

- February 28th Release of RFP
- March 30th Responses Due
- Mid-April Selection of Contractor by LMC
- June 1st Deadline for Initial Draft of Preliminary Trail Plan

Fields Maintenance

Ellen discussed with members the report from Bruce Scherer of Hheritage Fields Restoration Management of Natural Landscapes.

The discussion continued on how to eradicate the Black Swallow wort and Japanese Knotweed. A chemical management approach would require the injection technique which is highly specific in application. The large stand of bBuckthorn could be reduced by mowing more than once per season or chemically treated, especially in the northwest corner adjacent to the Cosman parcel.

The mowing of the meadow recommended by consultant Jeff Collins is once a year after August 1st. of each year. (Per the report he provided but this will be updated based upon current conditions – Ellen will contact Jeff)

Gene Record reported that the Judy Record Fund will fund a project to clean Pine Allee of all invasives, ie poison ivy etc.

The Committee agreed that work on the invasives should start this Spring.

The Committee voted unanimously to make arrangements for routine mowing of the fields and meadow. Recommendation about timing (once or twice per year) will be taken from Jeff Collins, Audubon (our consultant) and when it should occur. In addition, Committee voted unanimously to authorize Ellen to get prices for that work, as well as three other invasives priorities:

1. Black Swallow wort,
2. Japanese Knotweed
3. Invasives and encroaching vegetation in the Pine Allee

Ellen will get prices for each of these activities (separate # 3 as a different funding source) as well as the mowing and get back to the LMC next meeting so arrangements can be made for spring.

Jeanne Mooney asked about the brush pile that was not removed during mowing. Ellen responded that it was left there intentionally. It was intended to create edge effects but mostly we just ran out of time and couldn't begin mowing the northwest corner Buckthorn stand last fall.

Gene Record requested that the brush pile be removed as it is not aesthetically pleasing. The committee will include that activity in the next mowing approval.

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Martha Moore asked about wildlife in open space and how mowing would affect them. In general, the Committee decided that temporary disruption would occur but we would attempt to minimize effects by selective timing.

Also discussed the possibility of meeting with other groups who had similar Land Management issues and consolidating contracts on mowing and other issues. Martha Moore will coordinate this.

It was decided that the Land Management Committee Meetings hold schedule standing meetings on will take place on the first Tuesday of every month at Town Hall at 8:00 a.m. If no meeting is required, it will be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Healy