

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
December 2, 2015
Room 2 , Belmont Town Hall

2016 JAN 13 PM 8: 06

The meeting was called to order at 7: 12 PM

Members present: Michele Gougeon, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder, Jeffrey North, Lauren Meier and Chairman Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Members not present: Tom Grumble, Harlan Carere

Others present: Radha Iyenger of Belmont Citizens Forum, & Anne Paulsen, Jeanne Mooney, Martha Moore from the JKR Memorial Conservation Fund

Minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting were approved with edits.

Pine Allee Evaluation – Next Action Steps

Follow-up and next steps from Presentation of Pine Allee Assessment by Tree Specialists , Inc for the JKR Memorial Conservation Fund from October 2015 meeting:

Tree Removal – we must do the removal and trimming of the Level 1 trees for public safety. At the meeting in October we had voted to perform the work but now we must decide how we want to pay for it.

Anne Paulsen from the Board of the JKR Memorial Conservation Fund announced that the JKR Fund will provide a grant as a gift for up to \$150K Now as a gift to the Town of Belmont, if the Land Management Committee will agree to fund the last \$15K to manage the understory, spread woodchips and transplant under professional supervision. The JKR Fund will contract with Tree Specialists Inc. to perform the work in January. With enthusiastic thanks, the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill voted unanimously to commit the \$15K finish work as articulated in spring of 2016 and recommends to the Board of Selectmen that we accept this generous gift to allow us to care for, and restore a signature landscape element of the property. Ellen will ask for time on the next Selectmen's meeting and members of the JKR Fund will be invited to participate; we'd like an evening meeting or at least one covered by the media.

Jeff reported that the Conservation Commission will be visiting the site Tuesday, December 8th and will vote at the January meeting regarding regulatory process requirements for the tree removal in the buffer of the vernal pool adjacent to the Pine Allee. He expects a vote first Tuesday of January.

Ellen will send a letter to The Trustees of Reservations to announce the exciting new gift.

Fields Management - Next Steps

At our next meeting, in January 2016, we will discuss our next steps for fields, a separate and ongoing priority of our work. We have the proposal from Polatin and Ellen will request the financial information for Harlan to evaluate. Up for discussion are the Polatin proposal tasks and mowing plans.

Note, the January meeting will be held in the second Wednesday of January (13th), thereafter we'll continue to meet the first Wednesday of the month. Ellen remarked that March meeting will represent a problem due to conflict with the Presidential Primary March 1st – another date will be chosen.

Upper Coal Road – Erosion Control

Radha updated the Committee on the discussions regarding the Upper Coal Road, possibly including installation of a small trench near the Codman parking lot and/or installing a swale. The immediate goal is to try to minimize, intercept and channel the water runoff from the parking lot and down the coal road hill. Adam of New England Mountain Bike Association, experts in this area, has suggested creating a channel to a berm instead of a swale. Ellen reminded the Committee of a concern expressed in the Pressley Trails report that the downhill slope of the Coal Road is starving for water and the understory plants are suffering. The Committee will try to channel to an alluvium to allow the water the

cross (under or over) the road and spread across the downhill slope. Jeff and Lauren mentioned Biosoil. Jim Levitt, an expert in forestry will also be contacted.

Barn

The Committee held a brief discussion of the Barn – Ellen mentioned that she had been contacted by Alex Hurwitch of an Israeli sustainability company to consider taking over the barn. She pointed them to the Conservation Restrictions and Historic Agreements on the Town website.

Lauren will contact Mike Smith to obtain all of the Barn-related documents that were collected the last time the Barn discussion was brought up.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman -Chairman, Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill