

## **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 16, 2003 Minutes**

@ Belmont High School Cafeteria

### **Members Present:**

Ellen O'Brien Cushman Chairman,  
Stephen Kidder  
Lauren Meier  
Mike Flamang  
Michele Gougeon  
Richard Pichette  
Frank Keefe

Cemetery Commission Representative  
McLean Hospital Appointee  
Belmont Citizen Appointee  
Conservation Commission Appointee  
McLean Hospital Appointee  
Historic District Appointee  
McLean Hospital Appointee

### **Member Absent:**

Andy Healy

McLean Director of Facilities

### **Others Present:**

Tim Higgins, Senior Planner, Tom Grimble, Mike Tabaczynski – NEMBA, Kit Dreier, Gene Record - JRF Fund, Bob Gallant, Joe Hibbard – Implementation Committee, Liz Allison, Roger Wrubel, Martha Moore and Rosalie Keir.

**6:30 p.m.** There being a quorum, the meeting was opened by Chairman, Ellen O'Brien Cushman.

A discussion was held regarding the trail walk on June 12. There was a proposal to discuss the process by which the LMC will designate trail usage. The objective is to come up with a map to show what uses are for which trails: A "Trails Master Plan". The issue was with potential conflicts between walkers and bicyclists.

Joe Hibbard made two recommendations:

1. to formulate a set of planning objectives
2. put together planning tools: perhaps maps

Lauren Meier suggested that the LMC look at the issue from a "big picture" standpoint first. Don't just focus on specific trails and use.

Liz Allison suggested the Town has limited resources to retain Land Manager and to enforce any restrictions. This reality should be reflected in any final plan. Perhaps add ecological objectives as part of process – not just trail usage.

Mike Flamang suggested formulating a subcommittee to look at trail proposals (individual trail usage) in the context of the overall management of the property.

Richard Pichette agrees with overall concept. He stated that we have done a lot of analysis through the Goals and Objectives and trail usage is a part of that analysis.

**The following objectives were discussed:**

1. Fire Road – access and use. It would be useful to identify fire roads on a map
2. Habitat – locate trails in such a way that habitat are protected
3. Scenic objectives – locate trails in such a way as to maximize the “nature experience” of the visit:
  - a. promote quality of the visit
  - b. retain connections to abutting open space areas
4. Abutters – retain access for abutters, protection of private property from participants
5. Universal access

T. Higgins reminded the members that the Goals and Objectives have already been established and incorporate virtually all of the issues/concerns discussed tonight. They need to be formally adopted and it was agreed to do so at the next meeting.

There was a suggestion to develop several different schemes (re: use options) to help focus the future discussion.

Lauren Meier’s goal is to use existing trails to the maximum extent feasible.

The process should:

1. establish general goals and objectives – not just with respect to trails. The following issues/impressions from gleaned from the site walk:
  - a. erosion is a big problem requiring remediation
  - b. sight lines are very tight in many locations due to the vegetation
  - c. maintaining connectivity to abutting open space is very important

There was a decision to establish subcommittee comprised of four members (Ellen O’Brien Cushman, Andy Healy, Richard Pichette and Lauren Meier). They will met three times and report back to the whole LMC. Their goal is to establish suggested alternative trail maps reflecting the goals discussed this evening.

**Conservation Restriction Update:**

Correspondence has been sent to EOEA. No response has been received.

**North Meadow Update:**

Testing has been completed. The consultants are working together but nothing new to report to date.

A **summer meeting(s)** will be held when the subcommittee’s work is ready for review.

Latest Goals and Objectives will be sent out for final review and approval. The subcommittee will use that as basis for its work.

**7:20 p.m.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.