

Land Management Committee (LMC) for Lone Tree Hill
April 18, 2017
Conference Room 2, Town Hall

2017 SEP -8 AM 7:47

Present: Ellen Cushman, Andy Healy, Michele Gougeon, Steve Kidder, Harlan Carere

Others: Martha Moore, Jeanne Mooney, Radha Iyengar, Dennis Pultinas (McLean employee)
Meeting convened at 7: 06 PM

1. Minutes of 1/4/17 and 3/8/17 approved.
2. Radha reported on the Citizen's Forum Volunteer Day set for April 29, 2017. There are some commitments of volunteers. Projects will include: (1) Pine Allee planting of saplings under supervision of Tree Specialists, Inc., and (2) picking up trash along Coal Road. Radha requested permission to remove some invasives if there are extra volunteers.

Tree Specialists Inc. are now saying they only need 5-10 volunteers to do tree work.

Dennis spoke about the area around Bowditch parking lot and noted a lot of invasives. Dennis is not available on 4/29. Radha suggested putting Dennis in touch with Leonard Katz to do work on a different day. Leonard has been very diligent in watching and reporting the invasives and taking individual action as approved by the Committee.

Consensus of LMC is that for the April 29 Volunteer Day, the specific projects will be confined to the plantings on the Pine Allee and picking up trash on Coal Road at Pleasant Street. Radha will be the on-site manager of the volunteers.

Motion to approve \$2,489 to Tree Specialists, Inc. as a 50% advance payment to Tree Specialists, Inc. Unanimous vote.

Motion to authorize Chair Ellen O'Brien Cushman to approve on behalf of the Committee the remaining \$2489 (50%) to Tree Specialists, Inc. after the installation is complete. Unanimous vote.

Citizens Forum will notify Belmont Citizen Herald of volunteer day and will send out email blast. The Committee thanked Radha and the Citizens' Forum for selecting Lone Tree Hill for volunteer day again in 2017.

3. Upper and Mid Coal Road Restoration Project.
This work is not a volunteer project due to the requirement for heavy equipment and safety concerns. Andy will meet with Tom Grimble to review and report at the next meeting with the plan, timing, requirements.
4. Financial Review.

Ellen reported that she is working with Town officials to determine exactly how much money is in the LMC account and whether the account is receiving the monies properly due. Ellen believes there is approximately \$50,000 in account. Ellen will circulate to Harlan and Steve the lease documents for cell tower to make sure we understand how much revenue should be expected.

5. Day School Project Update.

Harlan reported on recent Planning Board meeting which he attended as both a neighbor and a member of the LMC. He noted many questions concerning plan to change traffic flow by creating an In driveway and have exit out Day School Lane for School use. Ellen informed the Committee that she would be circulating an invitation to a neighbor's open house at the Day School on April 26th at 6: 30 PM; LMC members are invited.

Issues: stormwater, traffic, lighting, mechanical and intersection with conservation land and open space, evening activities.

Committee recommended that a letter should be sent to the Planning Board noting these issues. Ellen will write the letter.

6. Community Path.

One proposed western route goes through McLean land. One route goes across middle of Eastern Woods on hill above Pleasant Street which would require a 12 foot retaining wall and six foot fence. The Committee members had concerns about these details, specifically the degrading of the ecological value of the open space by bisecting it with the trail, road and fence; also these structures would prevent free travel of wildlife up and down the hillside. Belmont worked very hard to secure this Conservation-Restricted land and we need to preserve those conservation values, not diminish them. McLean representatives indicated that they have not been contacted by the Community Path representatives to discuss a route across the privately owned land. Ellen will follow up with Jeffrey Wheeler, the Town's liaison for the project, to pass on this concern/lack of connection to the private land owner.

Committee would like to express view that if path is selected to go on north side of Pleasant Street that preferred route would be right along Pleasant Street as close as possible to the public way and not up through the hillside or over McLean land.

Committee also would like clarification of exactly where path would go to make sure it is not on private land.

7. Enforcement issues.

- a. issues with unauthorized trails
- b. should have further discussion on how LMC handles oversight and enforcement
- c. concern about graffiti on the Barn. Discussion whether LMC should work with Historic District Commission to figure out how to remove graffiti and stabilize and secure building. Consensus that LMC should work with Historic District Commission for these purposes. Lauren is our liaison to the Historic District.

8. Land Management Committee Leadership.
Ellen is not able to continue the comprehensive role she has been playing for LMC. Questions posed for LMC include whether to consider establishing a new structure so that there is a Vice Chair or Co-Chair or some other way to provide assistance so that work is better dispersed. This will be a topic for the next full-agenda meeting.

Recorded by Steven Kidder