

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill

March 8, 2017

Room 2, Belmont Town Hall

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2017 MAY 10 PM 3:49

The meeting was called to order at 7: 06 PM

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

Members not present: Harlan Carere

Others Present: Jeanne Mooney (JKR Foundation) and Radha Iyengar (Citizens' Forum)

The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 14th and October 6th meetings
Financial Review – Ellen informed the committee that our cell tower revenue account contains approximately \$50K at this time, she is reviewing all activity with the Town Accountant and pursuing the lease payments have been properly recorded. She will try to conclude this audit in time for the April meeting.

The Trustees of Reservations Monitoring Report - Ellen reported that TTOR conducted their annual monitoring earlier than usual to be certain to see the boundary issues. The boundary with the residences on Stanley Road continue to be a problem with overflow activities such as storing materials, emptying grass and Christmas trees and a boundary line encroachment by the construction of a shed right along the boundary line, instead of observing the required zoning setback. Ellen is working with Glenn Clancy to issue Non-criminal violations and warnings to the property owners and will send a reminder/enforcement letter to all owners.

Enforcement – the committee discussed methods for getting current observations of the site to enforce the Bylaw in a timely way, in an attempt to avoid the broken window syndrome. Some suggestions were having “rangers” on the property, either volunteer or paid a stipend, to act more as “ambassadors” to welcome visitors and remind them of the rules for the property, carrying maps and have an identifying badge. Jeff will report back from the Conservation Commission in hope that we may be able to develop one program for Lone Tree Hill and Rock Meadow. The conversation will continue at the next meeting.

Unauthorized trail building activity – Leonard Katz reported that a new trail has sprouted off the Coal Road in the location of prior activities on the hillside above Pleasant Street. Tom Grimble volunteered to immediately close the trail down and then once the weather improves, we'll arrange a more official closing activity.

Litter at the Pleasant Street Trail head – Ellen has contacted Star Market by telephone to ask if they would be willing to adopt the Pleasant Street Trail entrance by picking up litter. It appears that there is a wind tunnel effect coming across the Star Market parking lot, up the hill onto Lone Tree Hill. The store manager said they would certainly consider it and asked that she writes a letter with the request. She will follow up.

Upper Coal Road – At the April meeting, Andy Healy and Tom Grimble will report the revised dates for the work and methods. Whereas there was a rough plan to install a pipe under the road, Tom is concerned about the weight of a fire truck would crush the pipe.

Mowing of Meadows – The committee voted unanimously to authorize the mowing of the three meadows (Great meadow, heart shaped meadow and barn meadow). There will be two mowings for the price of \$2415 each mowing.

Invasives work – Ellen will contact Polatin for an assessment of what needs to be done in 2017.

Pine Allee Restoration Project with JKR Fund – The contract with Tree Specialists, Inc through JKR Fund for trimming and removal of dead limbs and trees in the Pine Allee was completed in 2016, due to drought no planting occurred. For 2017, Jeff North, representing the JKR Fund, presented two options for the planting of seedlings:

Option 1: in Spring of 2017, 25-45 trees, need 20 volunteers , using seedling sources from Lone Tree Hill, supervised by Tree Specialists, Inc. cost \$2200, total cost per tree installed about \$88

Option 2: in Spring of 2017 40 trees, need 20 volunteers, using purchased fresh dug burlap and bag seedlings, supervised by Tree Specialists Inc. cost \$2200, total cost per tree \$90. If we do 40 trees in a day, total installed cost would be \$5800, about \$145 per tree.

Option 3: in Spring of 2017 45 trees, need 20 volunteers, using purchased container seedlings (a bit smaller than option 2, supervised by Tree Specialists, Inc. plus tree cost \$50 per tree, total installed cost \$4450, about \$98 per tree installed.

Option 4: in Spring of 2017, install 15 trees from each of the options above, tag them to determine which type does best, the use that information to guide the installation of the remaining trees. Tree Specialists, Inc. for \$2200, cost of trees estimated at \$2798. Awaiting confirmation from vendor.

All options require aftercare, particularly watering. The JKR Fund would be willing to provide the funding for the first year, estimated value is \$4500 for 12 visits at \$375 per visit.

The Committee voted unanimously to authorize \$5,000 to accomplish this task, using Option 4, above, 15 trees of each style.

Belmont Citizens' Forum volunteer day to commemorate Arbor Day will occur either April 29, May 6 or May 13. Radha lyengar (Citizens' Forum) will work with Jeff North to determine if this volunteer day could be scheduled to coincide with the seedling planting project so that volunteers can participate in this very worthwhile event.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 30 PM
Respectfully Submitted,

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