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McLean Land Management Committee Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2010

Attending: Steve Kidder, Richard Pichette, Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Andy Healy, Michele Gougeon, Martha Moore; Kit Dreier, Tom Grimble, Jeanne Mooney, Dix Campbell, Susan of Belmont Patch

Update administrative changes: Ellen reported that Mary will do grant writing and administer contracts. She will not be coordinating volunteers, attending meetings, writing minutes, or working on the website. Ellen will send a copy of the "administrative list" showing which jobs Mary will take on. Glenn and Tom Younger are on board, and the additional work is within her contract and will not entail additional expense for the Town. A vote was taken unanimously approving this arrangement.

Heritage Fields work: Due to a machinery breakdown the meadow next to the barn was not all mown, but it will be done later this summer. The invoice for $2150 for work done was voted approved (the $2300 authorized, minus the $150 portion for the unmowed area). Bruce will soon take care of poison ivy and knotweed which was identified by Dix and Roger Wrubel. The knotweed is in a seed stage, so Ellen agreed to call Bruce to urge prompt action. $1800 has been approved for this work. Ellen will ask Bruce to estimate cost for removal of poison ivy in the visual corridor of the Pine Allee and also cost for removal of all the knotweed along Concord Avenue and extending into the Allee. A vote was taken which approved up to $1500 for this work.

Additonal work: Andy announced that he and a crew of McLean folks will be mowing the path near the cell tower shortly. In September the LMC will consider whether to have another mowing during this dry season. Ellen will contact Fran Williams of the Woodlands condo association about removing the rebar near the development for safety reasons.

251 Mill Street: the RFP will go out within the next three weeks for removal of the house including old fencing and all debris, and filling the hole this Fall. There will be a bid alternate for building the parking lot. Cell Tower money will be used to cover both and the asbestos assessment and monitoring required by DEP and the cost of asbestos evaluation. There is currently $50K in cell tower fund to cover costs, and another $58K remains in the Cosman Fund for other uses.

Clearwire Hearing, Communication Tower 780 Concord Avenue: Ellen attended and expressed the need for oversight of execution of lease and permit agreements. There is currently no one in charge and the vegetation needs management and trucks are damaging the granite pillars in the cemetery at the entrance to the cell tower road. Clearwire has been determined to be the fourth and final vendor. It was presented at the public hearing that the third vendor on the tower erroneously placed their arrays on the tower causing interference to Town service. The ZBA has approved the special permit and Clearwire, with a mention of the original conditions of the special permit, particularly the landscape and maintenance. Ellen told the ZBA that there needs to be a

process of oversight for the cell tower special permit, just as there is for other building permits.

Concord Avenue reconstruction early Fall: Work on a storm drain extension to Somerset Street will occur before the rest of the construction. Ellen met with Glenn and they agreed upon a spot at an old farm gate along Concord Avenue to the west of the cemetery for an entrance to the Open Space. Discussion of this tentative plan ensued with some controversy about the advisability of placing the crosswalk 200 feet West of the cemetery entrance. Kit circulated a sketch suggesting a possible crossing location closer to the cemetery road. Martha commented that it is unlikely that a the crosswalk farther removed from the intersection would be used, thus it may not be worth the expense. Ellen will express the LMC's criteria to Glenn for this project as follows: safety for vehicles and pedestrians, convenience of location to neighborhood access points to promote use, separate identity for open space entry from that of the cemetery, and optimal relationship to streets and driveways, plus all season use. To some a raised crosswalk seemed unnecessary. There was general concern about the need for traffic calming along Concord Avenue.

Naming: Ellen plans to draft an article for the Belmont Patch and the Citizen Herald asking for name suggestions, for publication in early September. She will ask that all suggestions be submitted to Rich for the October meeting. This would be more brainstorming, not be a contest.

Boundary Markers: TTOR sent information on the availability of TTOR boundary markers at low or no cost. The reaction was favorable to acquiring some of these. Locations could be recommended by the trails/signage committee, possibly near secondary access points. Members showed appreciation to Tom, who has posted the temporary rules on sturdy signs he constructed at a number of property access points.

Dead oak tree: Ellen will get a price from Bruce for felling a large dead oak near the pine allee which poses a safety threat. Andy suggested that the DPW might help move it out of the way.

"Belmont Serves" on Monday October 11th: Sponsored by the Belmont Religious Council, as in 2009, volunteers will be asked to bring their own equipment and the LMC will provide trash bags and other items as necessary. Suggested projects include raking up pine cones under the allee or clearing around pine border, trimming a connecting path from the new crosswalk on Concord Avenue, cleaning up debris and trimming along fire roads, clearing, clipping and invasives control near the Mill Street crossing. At the September meeting of the LMC particular job descriptions can be set. Tom will look for volunteers who might help supervise.

Trails : The committee has not met recently and needs a chairperson. Kit reported that the kiosks are ready for installation and the Mill Street Kiosk has been staked near the rules signs. (Tom may pull that rules sign once the rules are posted on the kiosk there.)

The Concord Avenue kiosk will be installed once the location of the entrance has been fully established.

Next meeting is September 8th at 7pm.

Submitted by Martha Moore