



Belmont Citizens Forum

Belmont Citizens Forum's Fifth Annual Lone Tree Hill Volunteer Day held in conjunction with the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund on April 29, 2017

Report to Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
Submitted by Radha Iyengar, BCF Treasurer and Volunteer Day Organizer

Volunteers met at two different sites on the LTH property: at the Belmont Citizens Forum (BCF) green and white awning on Pleasant Street and at the white awning at the Mill Street Lone Tree Hill parking lot to conduct the following two projects.

1. Trash pick-up along Pleasant Street

Energetic volunteers toting bright orange buckets and grabbers collecting a total of fifteen large bags of trash, three boxes of recyclables, one box of broken glass, two boxes of plastic bags as well as a sleeping bag.

2. Planting white pines along the Pine Allee

At the Pine Allee, under the guidance of The Tree Specialists, Inc., experts: David Ropes, Barbara Keene and Nick Cokonis, volunteers planted 15 purchased white pines ~2-3 feet tall, 15 purchased white pines ~3 – 4 feet tall and transplanted 15 white pines that were located near the Pine Allee in record time. The trees were purchased by the Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill

Tree Specialists, Inc., flagged the Allee before Saturday and supervised and instructed the volunteers; Roger Wrubel, Director, Habitat and Sandy Vores, Habitat Property Manager, sent 10 volunteers from their Habitat Annual Volunteer Day to lend a hand at the Pine Allee; Michael Santoro, Department Public Works, Highway Division Manager, and his staff for picking up the trash. Star Market allowed volunteers to park in their parking lot.

More than 50 volunteers worked on the above-mentioned projects. Among them were students from Belmont High School and Chenery Middle School, minors (18 or younger), two Judith K. Record Fund Trustees and seven BCF board members.

Our corporate sponsors were Northland Residential, Ann Mahon Realty, Cityside Subaru, East Boston Savings Bank, Watertown Savings Bank, Artefact Home and Garden, Belmont Land Trust, Belmont Savings Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Century 21 Adams Lawndale, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Middlesex Savings Bank, Renaissance Realty and The Great American Rain Barrel. Our community cosponsors were Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill, Mass Audubon Habitat Sanctuary, and Sustainable Belmont.

Attached are some photographs from the event.

P.O. Box 609, Belmont, MA 02478
www.belmontcitizensforum.org

*J. Grant Monahan, President, John Dieckmann, Vice President, Radha Iyengar, Treasurer,
Evanthia Malliris, Secretary, Sumner Brown, David Chase, Anne-Marie Lambert, Vincent Stanton Jr.*

Trash Pick Up - Pleasant Street



Pine Allee – Tree Planting



Tree Plantings and Pleasant Street Pickup

Lone Tree Hill Annual Spring Volunteer Day

by Radha Iyengar

On Saturday, April 29, the Belmont Citizens Forum (BCF) in conjunction with the Judith K. Record (JKR) Memorial Conservation Fund held its Fifth Annual Lone Tree Hill Volunteer Day. The rain held off and the volunteers came out in full force.

This year the work was divided between planting trees along the Pine Allee, and cleaning up the trash along South Pleasant Street (across from Star Market and Artefact Home & Garden).

In 2015, the JKR Memorial Conservation Fund engaged Tree Specialists, Inc. of Holliston, MA, to inspect the health of each tree along the Pine Allee. They subsequently embarked on a multiyear project to restore the allee. The allee consists of four rows of native white pines, *Pinus strobus*, estimated to be more than 100 years old. The Pine Allee is approximately 921 feet in length, has 165 existing white pines and is missing approximately 182 white pines. The largest-diameter tree at breast height is 33 inches versus the smallest at 5 inches. The trees are laid out in a triangular pattern, spaced roughly 10 feet apart, and run roughly east to west. There is a 10-foot-wide trail down the middle of the allee.

White pines have a shallow root system, which makes it easy for them to blow over in a windstorm, but also makes it easy to transplant them. Because they are so close together, the trees in the windbreak tend to concentrate their growth near the top to compete for light, which makes them more vulnerable to wind and snow load. Thus the trees were pruned earlier this year to reduce this risk.

Under the guidance of Tree Specialists experts David Ropes, Barbara Keene, and Nick Cokonis, volunteers planted 45 white pines in record time. The Belmont Land Management Committee purchased 30 of them and volunteers also transplanted 15 white pine saplings that were located near the Pine Allee. The Tree Specialists will be responsible for watering the trees and will monitor the growth of the three types of planted saplings to determine if one type thrives best for future plantings.



PHOTOS BY DAVID CHASE AND RADHA IYENGAR

Meanwhile, at the Pleasant Street end of the Lone Tree Hill conservation land, enthusiastic volunteers collected 15 large bags of trash, three boxes of recyclables, one box of broken glass, and two boxes of plastic bags, as well as a sleeping bag.

More than 50 volunteers worked on the projects. Among them were students from Belmont High and Chenery Middle School, two Judith K. Record Fund Trustees, and seven BCF board members.

A special thanks to Tree Specialists who flagged the Allee beforehand and supervised and instructed the volunteers; to Roger Wrubel, Habitat director, and Sandy Vores, Habitat property manager, who sent 10 volunteers from their Habitat Annual Volunteer Day to lend a hand at the Pine Allee; and to Michael Santoro, DPW Highway Division manager, and his staff, for picking up the trash. Star Market allowed volunteers to park in their parking lot.

Radha Iyengar is treasurer of Belmont Citizens Forum and organizer of BCF Volunteer Day.

Photos, page 14, top and middle: Volunteers gather to receive instructions for the tree planting. Bottom: David Chase (left) and David Merfeld (hidden!) transported trees via bike.

Page 15 top: Evie Malliris gathers the trash collected along Pleasant Street. Middle: Kit Dreier, president of the JKR Fund (left), with David Ropes and Barbara Keene (Tree Specialists). Bottom: Barbara Keene setting a white pine in place.

For these photos and more in color, please visit our website, belmontcitizensforum.org

**THANK YOU AGAIN VOLUNTEER DAY
CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Platinum Level: Northland Residential

Gold Level: Ann Mahon Realty, Cityside Subaru, East Boston Savings Bank and Watertown Savings Bank

Silver Level: Artefact Home and Garden, Belmont Land Trust, Belmont Savings Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Century 21 Adams Lawndale, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Middlesex Savings Bank, Renaissance Realty, and The Great American Rain Barrel.

Community cosponsors include: Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill, Mass Audubon Habitat Sanctuary, and Sustainable Belmont.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Volunteers plant trees, clean up Lone Tree hill**

The Belmont Citizens Forum would like to give a big shout out to the enthusiastic volunteers who turned out on Saturday, April 29, for our Fifth Annual Lone Tree Hill Belmont Citizens Forum Volunteer Day held in conjunction with the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund. There were two different worksites, one to plant white pines along the Pine Allee and a second to clean up the trash along South Pleasant Street, in the area across from Star Market and Artefact Home and Garden.

At the Pine Allee, David Ropes, Barbara Keene and Nick Cokonis, of Tree Specialists Inc., supervised the planting of a total of

45 white pine saplings of which 15 saplings were transplanted from locations near the Pine Allee. Thank you to the Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill for the purchase of 30 white pine saplings and to the JKR fund for funding the ongoing work at the Allee by Tree Specialists. Tree Specialists will be responsible for watering and monitoring the growth of these planted trees. Before this planting there were approximately 182 white pines missing and 165 existing white pines.

Meanwhile, at the Pleasant Street end of the Lone Tree Hill conservation land, enthusiastic volunteers toting bright orange buckets, grabbers and trash bags collected a total of 15 large bags of trash, three boxes of recyclables, one box of broken glass, two

boxes of plastic bags, as well as a sleeping bag.

We are grateful to all those who supported our effort. Our platinum level sponsor: Northland Residential; our gold level sponsors: Ann Mahon Realty, Cityside Subaru, East Boston Savings Bank and Watertown Savings Bank; our silver level sponsors: Artefact Home and Garden, Belmont Land Trust, Belmont Savings Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Century 21 Adams Lawndale, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Middlesex Savings Bank, Renaissance Realty and The Great American Rain Barrel and our community cosponsors: Belmont Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill, Mass Audubon Habitat Sanctuary and Sustainable Belmont.

A special thank you to

the tree specialist who flagged the Allee before Saturday and supervised and instructed the volunteers; to Roger Wrubel, director, Habitat and Sandy Vores, Habitat property manager, who sent 10 volunteers from their Habitat Annual Volunteer Day to lend a hand at the Pine Allee; and to Michael Santoro, Department of Public Works, highway division manager, and his staff for picking up the trash. Thanks also to Star Market who allowed volunteers to park in their parking lot.

Stay tuned for news about the next Belmont Citizens Forum community event. Visit belmontcitizensforum.org to keep up to date on our activities and to read our bimonthly newsletter.

The Belmont Citizens
Forum board of directors



Belmont Citizens Forum & The JKR Fund

Lone Tree Hill Volunteer Day

Saturday, 4/29, 9 am-1 pm, rain or shine!

Pine Allee Tree Planting and Trash Pickup

★ **Earn Community Service Credits** ★

☑ For Pine Allee work, meet at green & white BCF tent,
Lone Tree Hill Parking Lot, Mill Street

☑ For trash pick up, meet at BCF table on S. Pleasant St. at
Coal Road kiosk (across from Star/Artefact parking lots)

Platinum Level Sponsor.



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Community Cosponsors:

Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill ☆
Mass Audubon Sanctuary ☆ Sustainable Belmont

Questions? bcfprogramdirector@gmail.com

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