

Invasives Working Group (IWG)
of the Land Management Committee (LMC) for Lone Tree Hill

Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2022

All participation by Zoom

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IWG-LMC Members Present: Jeffrey North

IWG Member Present: Joe Hibbard, Leonard Katz (joined at 7:33)

DATE: February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:08 AM

Members of the Public Present: Radha Iyengar

The meeting convened at 7:00pm

Agenda items and discussion:

1. **Draft charge for the Lone Tree Hill Invasives Working Group.** The group agreed to review the first draft of the group's charge before the next meeting on Wed. January 26. Jeff North will compile comments and suggestions and present the draft charge at the LMC meeting on Wednesday Feb. 2.
2. **Discuss steps for determining a minimal viable workplan for 2022 season.** Discussion entailed determining the scope and description of work necessary in 2022 to maintain the work completed in late 2020 and 2021. This level of effort, primarily on Area A1, will include the treatment of invasive plants that were treated in 2021 and are re-emerging this year. Joe Hibbard suggested a) preparing a scope document for review by the LMC and then b) engaging Parterre Ecological Services in a discussion of the scope of work and ask for Parterre to prepare a proposal for their services. The initial cost estimate will determine if the work will be put out for bid in accordance with Massachusetts municipal procurement regulations. Joe Hibbard will draft the work description / scope document for LMC review.
3. **Next steps for creation, review, budgeting and LMC approval of a long-term land management strategy:** Step 1, Hibbard, North and Katz will each review all the existing reports pertaining to the property to identify information relevant to creating an up-to-date management strategy and to determine what is missing. Study of the existing studies will be invaluable for revealing what the IWG and LMC next steps should be. These include, but not be limited to:

[Parterre Invasives Report, May 5, 2020](#)

[McLean Hospital Open Space Ecological Management Plan - May 2001](#)

[Recommendations for Field Management to the McLean Open Space, Mass Audubon - May 2006](#)

[Recommendations for Field Management to the McLean Open Space, Mass Audubon - February 2014](#)

[DCR's Resource Management Plan for Beaver Brook Reservation](#)

Step 2 will be to understand the basic processes for land restoration and management advocated by others, i.e. the Society for Ecological Restoration and that organization's *International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration*, as an example. A literature summary will be helpful as a primer for practices.

At some point, the IWG will confer with Roger Wrubel and other trained ecologists to get a professional's understanding of each habitat type on the property and the anticipated ecological progression and evolution of the plant communities.

In summary, IWG agreed to read and synthesize the existing studies and reports, determine what's missing, bring in expertise, study analogous case studies, and draft a strategy that suits our conservation land and recommends specific actions.

The deliverable will be a strategy (with maps), not another general report.

4. **Extracting guidance from existing plans and reports:** See discussion above.
5. **Discuss working group meeting frequency: monthly, bimonthly, etc.** Twice per month through March, then reevaluate frequency.
6. **Working group name.** To remain as is until further discussion, if any.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey North