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DATE: May 8, 2020

TIME: 8:56 AM

Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Conference room 1, Town Hall

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM

Members present: Jeff North, Steve Kidder, Andy Healy, Tom Grimble, Radha Iyengar, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Members not present: Lauren Meier and Michele Gougeon

Others present: Roger Wruber (JKR Fund and Audobon) and Jeffrey Wheeler

1. Review of latest Zone 3 of McLean district proposal and current zoning going to public hearing of the Planning Board March 5 – Impact to LTH.

Ellen reviewed her February meeting notes in hope of having the Committee decide whether and what would be the comments from LMC on the zoning by-law that's being developed by the Planning Board. Roger suggested that we may want to suggest restriction on landscape herbicides and pesticide such as no Nicotinomar which damages bee hives. Can there be control over the owners of the townhouses or the condo association? What is appropriate for us to comment on for the zoning by-law now versus the detailed requirements of the site plan review process. Members said they did not feel adequately prepared to discuss this in detail and the Committee decided to set up a focused meeting ASAP. Steve offered to connect with Jack Dawley, the developer proposing the project to invite him to attend once the date is decided.

Jeffrey Wheeler left the meeting.

2. Trail signage project update - Jeff North said there are two approaches and the working group believes the total will be about \$10-\$25K therefore we will prepare bid documents. The two companies that the group contacted to discuss the approaches are Parterre and Conservation Works. The two approaches: "Design and Build" for \$5-10K that would include the trail map, a strategy for signage and an execution plan or the Just Design then Pause and Build, estimated about \$9999.99.

Radha asked how to incorporate and not lose all of the work and consultation we've obtained to date. Jeff told the committee that those reports, etc have already been shared with both consultants.

Roger said that the JKR would happily pay for 50%

Tom and Jeff will develop the specs and identify appropriate vendor for the next meeting

3. Pine Allee – Tree Specialists have contacted Jeff and suggested that the project to restore the Pine Allee could be continued. They have provided an evaluation. The Committee requested instead of the one project approach that Tree Specialist should come back with two or more tiers for the work, describing the criteria for their evaluation and return with a new proposal that's valued less than \$10K. Jeff will contact them.

In addition, Tree Specialists, Jeff and others have informed us that we have 2 dead trees in the Pine Allee that need to be removed ASAP as they are a hazard. The Committee voted to unanimously have Ellen contact Asplundh, the Town's tree contractor, to remove the two trees right away.

4. Trees in the Meadow – Tree Specialists have also put forth a proposal for caring for and removing specific trees in the Great Meadow as we requested. The value is \$7239 in total and work includes selective removal, chipping the meadow trees and perform bracing/cabling of the Lone Tree. Roger from JKR said that the fund would again happily provide a 50/50 grant for this

activity. Committee voted unanimously to authorize the work and authorized Jeff North to contact Tree Specialists. Ellen will authorize the PO with the Town for 50%.

5. Invasives Management Plan Approach – full property or selected areas/species as discussed last month.

Jeff North described the two approaches by a few vendors including Land Stewardship that we've been working with for several years and Parterre. LSI would prepare the plan and do the work but Parterre is okay just providing the plan alone. The committee discussed attributes of each but overall sense was that we need a 5 year plan and a map with a list of what we should be doing and when for only the invasives. The map is key. Roger from JKR Fund again, generously said that JKR would grant us 50/50

Vote – unanimous to authorize proposal #1899 by Paterre for a total of \$7500, Belmont's portion is \$3750. Ellen will do the PO.

6. Invoices presented for payment:

Land Stewardship (LSI) for treatment of Invasives from summer/fall 2019 \$4000 - Vote - unanimously approved.

Galaxy for security installation at the McLean Barn (LMC portion of the project) for \$18, 427.10. Ellen asked for the authority to pay conditional on confirmation that all work is complete and acceptance of the work by Steve Dorrance, Facilities Director who oversaw the project for the Town. Vote – unanimously approved

7. Conservation Commission Master Plan. Jeff reminded everyone that the Conservation Commission meeting about the parking lot for Rock Meadow is coming up.
8. Belmont Day School – Ellen informed the Committee that she had received a request from the Belmont Day School offering to perform some community service on Lone Tree Hill. The Committee was concerned about the date they propose being tick season, before the trails are mowed, what insurance coverage would be required to allow young children to perform an authorized project and without sufficient details the Committee wasn't comfortable accepting the offer. If the Day School has some specific details or projects they would like to or be suitable to perform, we would be willing to consider it. Ellen will inform the representative with our thanks.
9. Belmont Citizens' Forum Volunteer Day April 25th – Radha should feel free to add removal of any flowering or soon to flower garlic mustard to the list of authorized projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chair