

**Land Management Committee**

**Minutes**

**January 3, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**Remote Access Meeting Only**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: February 8, 2024

TIME: 8:33 AM

**Member Attendees:** Radha Iyengar, Tom Grimble, Adriana Bobinchock, Carl Solander, Michael Macht-Greenberg, and Mark P. Smith

**Other Attendees:** Leonard Katz, Joe Hibbert

**Recurring Business**

**1. Approval of past Minutes** - Due to the holiday, minutes from the December meeting were not available. They will be reviewed at the next meeting of the LMC.

**2. Review and Approve any Invoices**

- a. Invoice from Parterre for treatment of Ailanthus (work order 11483) and herbicide fall treatment (work order 11490) for a total of \$7220 were presented. Motion for approval by Tom Grimble, seconded by Radha Iyengar. Yes votes: Radha Iyengar, Tom Grimble, Carl Solander, Mark Smith, Michael, Adrienne. No votes: none.

**3. Financial Update**

- a. The committee reviewed the recently developed invoice tracking spreadsheet. Radha Iyengar and Tom Grimble agreed that further work was required to ensure the various sections of the spreadsheet were updated. Tom and Radha agreed to meet separately to update the spreadsheet.

**Continuing Business**

**4. Erosion on Coal Road** – Michael Macht-Greenberg reported that due to the holidays he had not yet had the chance to meet with the consultant to look at the drainage of the upper road. He noted this meeting was forthcoming.

Leonard Katz reported on new erosion on the lower coal road. Leonard reported that recent rains had caused a gully, approximately 8” deep, to form. After some discussion about potential causes of the erosion, Tom noted that in the past this issue had been discussed and the proposed solution was to have gravel added to the lower coal road as needed (e.g. every several years). Application of gravel as needed has proven successful. As further background Tom noted that previously the committee had considered hiring a consultant to study the issue but the idea was not pursued because the cost of the consultant report was cost prohibitive – and any solution would be even more cost prohibitive. Tom suggested the committee work to formalize the current maintenance plan and that the committee work to determine by whom and how this maintenance would be undertaken in the future.

**The meeting was briefly disrupted by a ‘zoom bombing’ – an intrusion which was quickly ended by Tom Grimble in his role of Zoom host.**

5. **Use of Barn for temporary storage by the High School** – Radha Iyengar reported that the securing of the door had been complete. The lockers have not yet been moved into the barn, though she noted this is likely to happen soon as the field house in which they were previously located has been demolished.
6. **Invasives Working Group Update** - Joe Hibbard, on behalf of the Invasives Working Group, gave an update on the invasives control work over the prior year (2023). He described and showed photos of the work in the A-1, with pictures of the area before and after mowing. And he shared photos of the Ailanthus tree treatment that was also part of the work this past year. He also showed pictures of the B-6 area after cutting and being sprayed on a trial basis this past July. Treatment appears to be effective.
  - a. Joe suggested to the committee that for the coming year (2024) invasives control work be undertaken in area B-5. He asked the committee to consider and approve this work for the coming year. The committee acknowledged this request and said it would be brought before the committee for consideration at a future meeting.
  - b. Joe then mentioned and showed photographs of an abutting property owner's truck which had been regularly accessing his property by crossing the LTH conservation land in front of the Barn. Discussion of this matter was postponed to the new business section of the meeting.
7. **Parking Signage at bottom of Coal Road** – Radha Iyengar provided a report on the completion of signage and painting at the bottom the Coal Road where it abuts Pleasant Street but there had been an error in the address of where to park, so the signs were being fixed. Radha Iyengar asked Leonard Katz whether he had seen the bike which had been regularly locked to the gate since the new signage was in place – Leonard Katz said he had not seen it since.
8. **Update from NEMBA** - Tom Grimble gave brief reports on each of the three items:
  - a. Volunteer Work 2024 – Tom noted that NEMBA had recently had a meeting to discuss their workplan for the coming year but he had not yet heard the outcomes of the meeting.
  - b. Rules Signs – Tom Grimble reported that the signs had been completed and need to be installed.
  - c. New Kiosk on Coal Road & Mill St Parking Lot – Tom Grimble reported he did not have any further information of when the kiosk would be put into place. He will keep the committee informed when these details are available.

#### **New Business –**

9. **Potential Trespassing** - The new business began with a discussion of the apparent trespassing and encroachment on the LTH conservation land by an abutter (whose property is on Vernon Road). The abutter has created an unofficial 'driveway' from the Rock Meadow parking lot road to his property. In addition, it was noted that he had built a shed which appears to be at the edge of his property but had also constructed a stone or gravel pad on which he parks his truck which appears to be on LTH property. Pictures of the truck and the informal 'driveway' were shared with the Committee (see below). After discussion about options for addressing this issue Tom Grimble agreed to contact Glen Clancy, who as director of facilities for the town is the appropriate person to address any encroachment and/or misuse of conservation land.

- 10. Verizon Enclosure** – Leonard Katz reported that the enclosure of the Verizon cell on Mill Street that serves McLean had been found open and unlocked on several occasions. Michael Macht-Greenberg reported he had asked a member of the McLean Hospital staff to look into this matter. Mark Tallent, McLean facilities, had left a voice mail message for Radha Iyengar today to get more detail. Radha will follow up with Mark.
- 11. Dumping at Lone Tree Hill Parking Lot** - Joe Hibbard mentioned two other issues of concern. First, he noted and showed photos of dog waste bags which were not appropriately removed from the property. Also, he mentioned that he had witnessed unleashed dogs interfering with and/or bothering other users of LTH. Tom noted this was an ongoing issue and that new rule signs were going up – which address both keeping dogs on leashes and removing waste. Members of the committee agreed this was an ongoing issue which needs continued attention to get better compliance with the rules of the property.
- 12. Other:** Leonard Katz mentioned recent dumping of other materials, e.g. materials from home renovations such as doors, construction materials, etc. at the parking lot on Mill Street. This type of dumping has been an irregular but ongoing issue. The committee talked about various options, from additional signage to placement of a motion activated camera. There was some support for additional signage, especially if such signs would empower the police to take action and issue fines if they catch someone dumping illegally. It was agreed this issue would be further discussed at a future meeting.
- 13. Construction Equipment Parking** – Radha Iyengar reported that the town had requested to temporarily park construction equipment in the Mill Street parking lot while some maintenance work was done nearby. She wanted to let the committee know this temporary use had been authorized in case anyone sees or complains about these vehicles there.
- 14. Blowdowns from recent storms** – Leonard Katz reported on various blown down trees he had noted after the recent storms. He mentioned his initial report was incomplete as he learned of other trees blown down across paths on the property. He agreed to send Radha information on the locations of these downed trees. Tom Grimbale volunteered that he would work with NEMBA to clear these trees from the paths. In a related matter, the committee asked Leonard whether he would be willing to take down the partially built bike ‘jump’ that was illegally constructed near the Coal Road. Leonard agreed to undertake this task.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

#### **15. Dates for upcoming meetings & events**

Future Land Management Committee meetings dates are scheduled as follows. The dates and times will be adjusted if needed:

- a. Wednesday, February 7
- b. Wednesday, March 6
- c. Wednesday, April 3

**See next page for photos of possible trespassing:**

**Photos of trespassing as noted in section 9.**

