

McLean Land Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2007

Members present: Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Steve Kidder, Andy Healy, Frank Keefe, Rich Pichette, Michele Gougeon and Carla Moynihan. Wes Ward (TTOR) was not present, Ann Paulsen attended in his place.

No record of others who attended was taken.

" The LMC discussed the two written proposals provided by Polatin Ecological Services in response to requests by LMC. Polatin/Heritage Fields is the group we used last year to perform meadow mowing and brush cutting. We had a great experience and result and the LMC decided to use their expertise as originally recommended by Jeff Collins, our consultant from Audubon. There was general discussion about the need to conduct mowing for ecological reasons, not just aesthetic reasons. Timing of the mowing and application of herbicides may be ill-fitting this year for individuals' enjoyment of the open space, particularly since mowing will not occur until after the herbicide is applied, thus later in the summer.

" 1. To mow the meadows, cut brush and perform specified native plant revegetation project tasks (4 in number) as articulated in the proposal dated May 1, 2007 taking place from August to Mid-late fall of 2007

" Proposal value is \$4300 inclusive.

" LMC by unanimous vote accepted the proposal as submitted for \$4300 from Polatin Ecological paid from the McLean open space management account.

" 2. To perform herbicide treatments of the black swallow wort, the japanese knotweed in the two meadow areas and the poison ivy within the Pine Allee. The Pine Allee poison ivy work will be paid by the JKR Fund per Gene Record.

" Project tasks (3 in number) as articulated in the proposal dated May 1, 2007 taking place between June and August 2007.

" Proposal value is \$4,900 inclusive

" LMC by unanimous vote accepted the proposal as submitted for \$4,900 from Polatin Ecological paid from the McLean open space management account. \$500 will be reimbursed by the JKR Fund for the application of herbicide to the poison ivy in the Pine Allee.

" A question was asked about whether a path could be mown through the meadow to limit the ticks as people walk. Ellen will explore the possibility with Polatin but the LMC will follow the recommended schedule.

" Carla led the group through a review of the Trails RFQ process and response, stating that the only one received within the time period was from Pressley Associates (and LEC for ecological) for \$26,050. Carla and her trails subcommittee had reviewed the response and stated that it was complete and there was a general feeling of excellent knowledge and competence at Pressley. Being concerned that the single response was due to the RFQ itself, Carla contacted the other firms we had sent the RFQ, some fifteen. In general, the response to the RFQ was positive but the firms said they were previously committed to work in the spring and summer already. Timing was a problem. The LMC discussed the timing issue at length and decided that we had waited long enough, the time to act is now. In addition the amount of \$26,050 was discussed as no comparative value could be obtained. The committee agreed that the amount was not a concern because of the perceived importance and value of the work.

" By unanimous vote, the LMC made a tentative designation of Pressley Associates for the \$26,050 trail work in response to the RFQ. Ellen will schedule the tentative designation interview with Pressley and explain the process to them. The goal of the interview is to specifically answer the following questions and concerns: to address the specifics of their process and timeline; provide details on each person's involvement in the original McLean Hospital work by Pressley and their ability to take a fresh look at the property; expand upon their individual experience with open space, not purely park work. Lastly, the committee will explain the involvement of the public

in the process, through the LMC and tell Pressley that the LMC will be making the decisions. The LMC will make them aware that one particular decision on which we'll rely upon their assessment is whether to allow bicycle use on site, considering physical constraints, parameters and public input.

" Tentative designation interview to take place within two weeks if possible.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:07 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Chairman, McLean Land Management Committee