

**McLean Land Management Committee
Minutes, June 11, 2008**

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Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. Members present: Michele Gougeon, Steve Kidder, Andy Healy, Rich Pichette, Carla Moynihan, Martha Moore, Ellen O'Brien Cushman. Not present: Wes Ward, Frank Keefe

Others present: Dix Campbell, Bob Delise, Rosalie Kerr, Kit Dreier, Jeanne Mooney

Minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting were approved.

The LMC discussed and voted unanimously to create access by a family with a teenage trailblazer who uses a motorized wheelchair. Ellen received a letter from the mother, Andrea Nolin on behalf of her son. Unfortunately, the open space trail entrances present an obstacle to his wheelchair. The LMC authorized Ellen to work with Peter Castanino of the DPW to install an informal asphalt ramp at the cell tower to connect to the trail system. Ellen will also propose the parking allowance to the Cemetery Commission, hoping to secure permission for the family van to park on the Cemetery Roadway during daylight hours. The ramp will not have to conform to any specific code, just provide immediate access/convenience.

All of the trail reports are on the Pressley ftp site. The files, containing many photos, drawings, etc are extremely large and putting the individual files on the Town's website will slow it considerably. The ftp site solves the size problem until Pressley closes our access. All files will be presented to the Town on disk, as required by contract with Pressley.

LMC unanimously endorsed the trails plan provided by Pressley, except for trail 12A and the specific use restriction for pedestrian-access routes voted at last meeting. Rerouting of Trail 12A multi-use trail will be done with the objective of minimizing land/flora/fauna disturbance while creating a challenge for the cyclists and walkers, hugging the trail up to the edge of bushes/vegetation in the meadow near the zone 1A buffer and the edge of the lower meadow, cutting through the vegetation before joining up with the trail paralleling the pine alley. Ellen has walked and flagged this with Bruce Scherer of Heritage Fields, Dix Campbell and Gene Record have walked it as well using a GPS, though a final route has not yet been determined and voted. The LMC would like to hear from mountain bike community about the concept of a through-trail for bikes or if we also need to provide a loop on the property, particularly relevant to trail 12A.

The following unanimous votes were taken to authorize/accept the following proposals from Heritage Fields/Polatin:

- A. Follow-up herbicide work covering the great meadow \$1500
- B. Mowing of trails only (to occur during the period of the herbicide spraying) \$600
- C. Mowing the barn area \$350
- D. Mowing the Great field and the Heart-shaped meadow (to occur after the 6 week waiting period for the herbicide use) \$2000

Total to Heritage Fields/Polatin Ecological at this time is \$4450

Belmont's Animal Control Officer, John Maguranis, has volunteered to come to a future meeting to talk about enforcement and wildlife control issues.

Working Group reports:

Rules, enforcement group reported on their upcoming survey with Roger Wrubel of Audubon, City of Boston and TTOR, among others.

Access working group : Bob Delise and Carla Moynihan reported . Report distributed showing preferred access points for parking and for the property. Recommendations include format and mapping

User survey : Ellen and Harlan reported that the survey has been prepared . Dates for conducting haven't yet been determined. Securing volunteers is an issue.

Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund:

The LMC voted unanimously to accept the grant reimbursement by the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund for the Trails work done by Pressley Associates, totaling \$26,045.74 of the original proposal \$26, 050. The LMC is extremely grateful for the funding and public/private partnership with the JKR Fund and looks forward to continuing this successful model.

The LMC also voted unanimously to accept the \$500 grant reimbursement for the herbicide application within the Pine Allee to treat poison ivy, as previously voted. Work was performed by Polatin Ecological/ Heritage Fields.

Gene Record will arrange for the grant checks to be delivered to the Town of Belmont Accounting office, Ellen will provide the proper account numbers to be certain they go to the McLean Open Space Gift Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kidder