

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill

December 4, 2013

Room 2, Town Hall

2014 JUL 23 PM 7:47

Member Attendees: Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Jeffrey North, Steve Kidder, Michele Gougeon, Andy Healy, Wes Ward

Meeting convened at 7 pm.

Fields Management – Jeff Collins, Audubon

Ellen reported that Jeff Collins, Audubon consultant hired to perform an update of the Fields/Meadows report he performed in 2004 in on track for completion and distribution by December 12th. Ellen will distribute to all once received. Committee will schedule a meeting with Jeff to have him present the findings.

Bat Boxes – Eagle Scout project

Jeffrey North reported that the Eagle Scout Bat Box Project is back on track with Christian Cahoon, Eagle Candidate. Jeff volunteered to supervise design and installation, committee gratefully agreed. Bat boxes will be installed, southern/ southeast facing locations, at a height of at least ten feet.

Footbridge Replacement

Ellen reported that the Footbridge project was completed by a crew from New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) led by Tom Grimble from the Land Management Committee, on October 27th. The resultant bridge is nothing short of wonderful, of sufficient length and height to prevent blockages by floating debris and protect the edges from erosion. The temporary bridge that had been assembled and built on site without the review or approval of the committee was dismantled and removed. The funding for the new bridge was provided by NEMBA grant and donated excess materials from the Joey's Park renovation that was just completed; Tom Grimble made arrangements for the donation. The committee sent congratulations to Tom and his crew.

Coal Road Regrading and Drainage Work

Ellen also reported that the Coal Road Trail rebuild project went wonderfully November 2, 2014, led by committee members Tom Grimble and Andy Healy of McLean Hospital. Andy and McLean provided the necessary heavy equipment and an expert crew of workers. Additional volunteers on the ground from the NEMBA trail crew, Leonard Katz and Radha Iyengar assisted with manual labor. The crew completed the installation of drainage pipe under the road, creation of a drainage swale, removal of debris in the brook, regrading the road, from Pleasant Street uphill several hundred yards. In addition, the crew removed the rogue trail near the Murray knoll, and rerouted and recreated a more acceptable trail to limit erosion and off trail damage. Future projects will deal with the area of runoff from the parking lot. Several specimen plants were salvaged and transplanted to safer environs.

Invoices

The committee voted unanimously to reimburse \$29.75 to Dix Campbell who purchased a replacement sign from Makepeace, Inc.

The committee voted unanimously to pay the invoice of \$9450 from have Asplundh Tree company, per the DPW contract with the Town, which removed the dead trees and "widowmakers" in the Pine Allee, per vote of the committee in October.

Pine Allee Disturbance

A member had reported that the duff and leaves, debris that had been left in the Pine Allee had been removed by someone, without authority of the Committee. After some investigation, Ellen contacted the Belmont Day School and it was confirmed that the Day School track coach has blown or raked all of the Pine Allee for a race the school held there recently. Ellen reaffirmed to the Belmont Day School representative that this activity occurred in violation of the Conservation Restriction and must not happen again. The Day School representative said she would pass this information along to the coach and other staff. In addition, Ellen reminded the representative that emptying the swimming pool onto the conservation restricted property is not permitted; the representative affirmed that they are aware of this.

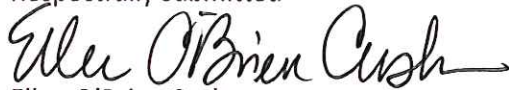
Website

Ellen reported that the Town is switching to a new website in February. She will endeavor to replace all of the missing reports and documents that disappeared during the last transition of the website. Member Tom Grimble offered to be the first reporting location for emails with problems or issues at his lmc email. Once the website is switched, Ellen will arrange to add it.

GIS

Lastly, Ellen was asked to find out if we can add our trail system to a GIS layer on the Town's maps. She will speak with the right GIS folks for Town and report after the website transitions.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ellen O'Brien Cushman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Chair