

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
March 5, 2014
Room 2, Town Hall

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2014 JUL 23 PM 7:47

Member Attendees: Tom Grumble, Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Jeffrey North, Steve Kidder, Andy Healy
Other Attendees: Radha Iyengar, Leonard Katz
Meeting convened at 7 pm.

Fields Report – Jeff Collins, Audubon

Ellen reported that Jeff Collins, Audubon consultant hired to perform an update of the Fields/Meadows report is ill and unable to attend, although the report had been distributed to the committee and cc list. He will attend a future meeting of the committee. The committee considered this a comprehensive look at the fields situation, noting that Jeff consulted with Bruce of Heritage Fields and Chris of Polatin Ecological. Basically, regular mowing (twice yearly), treating aggressively for invasives and removing those threats are key to keeping the meadows moving in the right direction.

The committee asked Ellen to relay to Jeff that we would like him to add a table, much like in the original BSC Ecological Management Plan, showing priorities, estimated dollar value to allow us to develop RFQ right from the plan. The committee further authorized up to \$500 to perform this additional work and incorporate it into the final version of the report.

Fields Mowing – for the 2014 season

The committee unanimously voted to authorize the contract for two mowings with Heritage Fields, one in May and one in September at a rate of \$2415 per mowing, including mobilization.

General Bylaw for Rules and Enforcement

Ellen reported that she has been working with Town Counsel to write the new General Bylaw to allow rules and enforcement on the Lone Tree Hill Property. The Bylaw draft will be available at the next meeting for the committee to review, edit and/or approve in anticipation of Annual Town Meeting in May.

Trail Implementation Plan using Pressley Report

The Committee reviewed each of the Trails action items as shown in the original Trails Plan from Pressley, noting actions still required. Leonard Katz reported that the trail abandonment and reroute seems to be holding. He also questioned what is happening or planned for the old #2 and #3 trails and whether they should also be closed because they are not on the public trail map. They are private trails to/from McLean and must remain open but private, not on maps, etc.

Belmont Citizens Forum Volunteer Day

The BCF has again decided that the Lone Tree Hill land should be the site of their volunteer day for 2014. The projects the committee will recommend are :

1. Placing woodchips in the path of the Pine Allee
2. Pleasant Street trash pick up and removal
3. Trail B project (whether to continue to work on the trail – Tom and Radha will talk)

Bat Box – Eagle Scout Project Update

Jeffrey North reported that the Eagle Scout Bat Box Project has been completed by Christian Cahoon, Eagle Candidate. Jeff supervised and approved the installation, as he was designated by the Land Management Committee. Six bat boxes have been installed, southern facing locations, at a height of ten feet. Work performed over Martin Luther King weekend.

Respectfully submitted



Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Chairman