

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill

July 23, 2014

Room 2, Town Hall

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

2014 SEP -4 PM 1:01

Other Attendees: Radha Iyengar

Meeting convened at 7 pm.

Review of the Jeff Collins (Audubon) Fields/Meadows Report and Polatin Ecological Proposal for Invasives Management

The committee reviewed the final version of the report by Jeff Collins, particularly focusing on the Recommendations Chart for each of the fields, and their relative priority. To quote Jeff, "Because invasives have been so difficult to suppress in these meadows, and because I consider invasive plants the main threat to habitat quality, the control of invasives should be the number one management priority for the fields in the next three to five years." The committee then reviewed and mapped the proposed services in Polatin Ecological Proposal. After some discussion, Andy Healy moved that we engage Polatin Ecological for Task 1 and Task 2 to attack the black swallowwort and knotweed as shown in the proposal. The price for Polatin to perform Task 1 is \$4000 and Task 2 is \$2300. The motion was passed unanimously for the total of \$6300 preferably paid from the cell tower revenue account. Jeff North noted his interest in observing the operation as it's going on and Ellen and Jeff will participate in an onsite observation prior to the September meeting. We hope to evaluate the effectiveness of these activities, then meet September 3 or 10th and decide how/whether to proceed with Task 3 to remove all invasive plants as outlined in the Audubon report. (We have already scheduled the second mowing with Heritage Fields for mid- September.)

Path/Trail Mowing Through the Great Meadow

The committee authorized Jeff North to engage the person who mows the trails/paths at Rock Meadow between major tractor mowings to mow the one trail through the Great Meadow from the Cell Tower across the Great Meadow to the vehicular gate at the Pine Allee. The committee unanimously authorized Jeff for up to \$500, work to be performed in August.

Minutes

Minutes of the December 4, March 5, March 26 and April 2 meetings were accepted unanimously. They will be posted to the website tomorrow. Ellen called for any photos, particularly from volunteer work days to be sent to her for posting to the website.

Tree Damage

Ellen reported that in driving past the Pine Allee, she noted some tree damage sustained in the recent wave of significant storms. She has asked the DPW to have the Tree Warden and Asplundh evaluate the damage to the trees and provide a price for the work. The price is expected sometime next week.

Fire Roads

McLean has indicated that they will be evaluating the Fire Roads for mowing this fall to ensure proper clearance per the Fire Department requirements. The committee accepted McLean's kind offer - Andy Healy will inform the committee prior to performing the work.

Other

Kit Dreier had suggested a hand drawn brochure showing the points of interest on the property; she offered a version. The committee supports the idea – Ellen will work with Kit to determine the course of action to produce the brochure.

The committee will meet September 3 or 10th, depending upon the timing of the herbicide treatments, mowing and availability of members. Ellen will also contact The Trustees of Reservations for our new representative.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman