

Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
Minutes for September 3, 2014
Room 2, Town Hall

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2014 NOV 13 AM 8:34

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

Other Attendees: Radha Iyengar, Anne Paulsen, Kit Dreier, Leonard Katz, Bruce Scherer (Heritage Fields)

Meeting convened at 7:22 pm.

Heritage Fields and Polatin Ecological - Update, Timeline for Invasives Management

Bruce Scherer addressed the committee to update the timeline and activities for scheduled treatment of the Knotweed and Swallowwort, known as Task 2 in the Polatin proposal as voted Sept. 3rd. In order to priority for treatment:

1. Swallowwort – As indicated in Polatin's latest communication to the Committee, there was a scheduling snafu and now it's too late to treat the swallowwort to achieve any result. This activity will be performed when the buds come out in the spring of 2015
2. Knotweed - The bulk of the knotweed was treated with herbicide last week, there remains a small stand still requiring treatment between the wall on Concord Ave and the Pine Allee. That will be treated in the next week. Kit Dreier requested treatment of the knotweed between the wall and Concord Avenue however Ellen advised the Committee that any herbicide treatments within the Public Right of Way require filings and in Belmont that is managed through the Dept of Public Works/Highway. Ellen will contact them. Kit indicated that the JKR Fund would be willing to pay for this effort if it's approved.
3. Buckthorn – can treat anytime
4. Bittersweet – can treat anytime
5. Tree of Heaven at the Cemetery knoll

Bruce noted that they are not applying insecticides, only herbicides so there is no butterfly effect once the application has dried it moves into the tissue of the plant. It's selectively applied.

3 Year Treatment/Reclamation Recommendation: Year 1 – Invasives, Year 2 Invasives, Year 3 Seed In by-till seeding to drill in or introduce new desired species

Heritage Fields – May mowing weakens ^{plant}, June herbicide applied to new emerging plants, July observe and judge
Pine Allee debris - Discussion of methods to remove/deal with debris in the Pine Allee, broken branches, downed trees, buckthorn, grabbing and stacking the broken materials in a "neatened" way. Bruce will send a proposal based on his standard daily rate. If we decide to proceed, we will authorize up to a number of days and prioritize the area we want the work performed. We will only concentrate from the metal vehicle gate to the cell tower, but will decide both sides, one side, etc.

Minutes of the July 23, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Fire Roads - Andy Healy informed the Committee that McLean had completed the clearing/opening of the fire roads to comply with the requirements of the Fire Department. This is performed using McLean staff labor at their cost. The Committee thanked the McLean representatives for performing this work on a regular basis relieving the Committee of the cost burden.

General Bylaw – Ellen reported that the General Bylaw that was adopted at Town Meeting in May awaits the approval of the Attorney General. Once approved, it will become a law and we will discuss our plans for enforcement, posting etc. The deadline for the Attorney General to take action is in late September.

Trails mowing mid-summer – Jeff North reported that this activity was performed August 3rd. Cost is not yet known.
Trails – it has been reported that there is now a new unauthorized walking trail across the middle of the meadow – one resident reported that a man walking six dogs (only two on leashes) has been seen using the path regularly. Ellen will contact the Animal Control Officer. This is not an authorized trail and use must be stopped.

Invoice for Fields/Meadows Report by Audubon, Jeff Collins – The Committee voted unanimously to pay invoice from Audubon for Jeff Collins work as consultant and report production for \$800.

Kiosks – Kit Dreier of the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund (JKR) has discovered some problems with the construction of the kiosks that the JKR had donated to the Lone Tree Hill. They are pursuing alternatives and remedies and will see that the repairs are completed.

Hand drawn map – as mentioned July 23 and discussed, anyone with ideas for things to see/do on Lone Tree Hill should send them to Tom Grimble to contribute to the hand drawn brochure project. Kit will research others that have done this to understand pricing.

Belmont Serves Projects - the Committee decided on the following projects for Belmont Services to occur on Columbus Day, October 13th: Meet at the Parking Lot – pick up trash and spread woodchips around the rear of the parking lot along the border with the wooded area to limit erosion and better identify where the trail head is located. Also, cut and remove bittersweet at the Northwest corner, Pick up trash along the Pleasant Street/ Old Coal Road entrance.

Trails work - The Committee authorized Tom Grimble to perform additional work to close trails using his best judgment.

Website – Ellen updated the Committee on the Town's new website and encourages people to send her photos that will be placed on the website. Tom Grimble had volunteered to be the "go to" person for reporting problems or making suggestions and a link to Tom's LMC email has been added to the website.

Request from Resident at Woodlands to have a tree removed that she feels is diseased and threatens her property – Andy Healy will meet with the resident/review the tree, its condition and location and advise the Committee

Respectfully submitted
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman

Invoice for Consultant Services

Project: McLean Open Space
To: Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Town Clerk
455 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Date: 7 August 2014

In accordance with our agreement, there is due at this time for consulting services and reimbursable items on the above project, for the period ending 30 June 2014, the sum of eight hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$800.00).

The above amount shall become due and payable thirty days from the date of this invoice. Interest on overdue accounts shall accrue at one and one half percent (1.5%) per month.

Tasks completed during this period include:

McLean Open Space management recommendations and report	\$800.00
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Total =	\$800.00
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By: J. Collins

Ok to pay Per Vote of
Land Management Committee for Lane
on September 3, 2014 Tree Hill
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman.
org 21523652
object 530000
McLean Land Mgmt Prof. Services