

**Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
Minutes for November 5, 2014
Room 1, Town Hall**

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

2015 APR -9 AM 8:01

Other Attendees: Radha Iyengar, Leonard Katz

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM

Invoice from Polatin Ecological - Task 2 from their proposal, first segment

The committee discussed and voted unanimously to authorize payment of the invoice #043-2014 from Polatin Ecological in the amount of \$800 for completion the first segment of authorized Task 2 from their June 10, 2014 proposal, knotweed herbicide application. Second segment of Task 2, herbicide treatment of swallowwort, will be performed spring of 2015.

Invoice from Heritage Fields for 2nd Mowing of meadows and removal of downed tree in Heart-shaped Meadow

The committee approved the invoice #015, dated 10/31/2014 for the second mowing and removal of the downed tree in heart-shaped meadow, work performed by Heritage Fields, authorized in the spring of 2014.

Proposal to remove brush, branches and trees in the Pine Allee corridor by Heritage Fields/Polatin Ecological

The committee discussed the proposal by Heritage Fields/Polatin Ecological to clear out brush, invasives and tree stumps, logs within the corridor of the Pine Allee as detailed in the Audubon Report by Jeff Collins. Cut vegetation will be treated topically with herbicide by cut stem treatment. Logs will be neatly stacked at least 10 feet behind the row of pines in the Pine Allee and brush will be put into brush piles. The Committee voted unanimously to authorize three days of work (based upon the \$1200 per day price) and the work will be restricted to the corridor between the cell tower and the vehicle gate.

Lone Tree Hill General Bylaw

Ellen updated the committee on the status of the Lone Tree Hill General Bylaw that was adopted at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting and approved the Attorney General in mid-October. Ellen will prepare printed versions of the Bylaw for posting in the kiosks and has been added to the General Bylaws online and on the Land Management Committee's webpage.

Kiosks – Refurbishment of the Bulletin Boards

Kit Dreier had informed the committee that there were some structural and quality problems with the kiosks and the material used for the bulletin board postings. No one from JKR Fund was present to provide an update. The item will be addressed in November.

Enforcement – Next Steps

Once the Attorney General approves the General Bylaw, which includes specifics for enforcement, the new Bylaw will be posted in the kiosks and the Police will take responsibility for enforcement. We'll need to work with Police and Conservation agents to get them familiar with the property and the trails as well as the Bylaw.

Financial Update

Harlan updated the committee on our financial status, the committee agreeing to hold our budget at \$12,700 per year in the categories previously approved, from mowing to invasives treatment to studies. The revenue balance is \$63,500.

Upper Coal Road

The committee briefly discussed the work required at the Upper Coal Road; we'll ask for a recommendation by Tom Grimble and Andy Healy at an upcoming meeting.

Tree on Conservation Restricted Property – complaint by resident of the Woodlands

After a complaint by a resident of the Woodlands over the late summer, Andy Healy reported that the tree is on Conservation-Restricted property owned by McLean Hospital. McLean has dispatched a tree crew and paid for the work.

Belmont Serves Projects

Columbus Day in Belmont means Belmont Serves, a coordinated volunteer effort led by the Belmont Religious Council. The Lone Tree Hill projects included trash collection and debris clean up in and around the Mill Street parking lot, accompanied by better trail definition for the trail head and clearing some additional plant material away from the bicycle rack, Lone Tree Hill sign and the entrance roadway; pulling glossy buckthorn in the Pine Allee will be added if time allows. Ellen and Jeff North again led the projects and guided approximately 25 volunteers, photos had been circulated in October.

Managing Conservation Land in Belmont – Coordination with other groups?

Ellen had reported that she was approached by Debbie Hartman of Friends of Rock Meadow who is interested in opportunities for coordination and sharing of resources across the Belmont Conservation lands. Debbie was expected to attend but did not. The committee indicated a willingness to cooperate and share information, vendors, coordinate timing to obtain better/mass pricing and take advantage of any discounts however the structure of the Land Management Committee, management decisions and funding by the revenue from the cell tower in Conservation Restriction B-2 on Lone Tree Hill land is specified and restricted in the long-standing Memorandum of Agreement documents and Conservation Restrictions between McLean and Belmont. The money cannot be spent elsewhere and the committee is the group that has responsibility for decision-making.

Minutes from September 3, 2014 were approved. The meeting scheduled for October 1, 2014 was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Chairman, Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill