

Minutes of the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill
April 8, 2015
Room 1 Belmont Town Hall

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The meeting was called to order at 7: 15 PM

Members present: Steve Kidder, Michele Gougeon, Andy Healy, Tom Grimble and Chairman Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Members not present: Lauren Meier and Jeff North, Harlan Carere

Others present: Kate Grimble and Evie Nallerist, a representative of Belmont Citizens' Forum

Senior PGA Tour in Belmont – Inquiry about Parking

Ellen informed the Committee that there would be a major PGA Senior Tour event occurring at Belmont Country Club June 9-16th. Ellen had been approached by the Town Administrator's office inquiring about the possibility and availability of parking in the fields of Lone Tree Hill (the Great Meadow, the Heart-Shaped Meadow and the Barn Meadow) for tour attendees. The daily attendance could approach several thousand people. In addition, there is interest in using/renting the parking lot at Lone Tree Hill, 251 Mill Street.

The Committee felt strongly that the idea of using the fields, held in Conservation Restrictions, for a parking lot, would be prohibited by the Conservation Restrictions and, more importantly, undesirable because of the effects on the Conservation values of the property. In addition, once the property was used as a parking lot, it is unclear that any attempt at restoration would be adequate to restore the property to its pristine state. Presumably, there would be a rental arrangement but the value of the rent would not overcome the objections of the Committee.

Field Mowings for 2015

The Committee voted to engage Heritage Fields to perform two mowings in 2015, working in concert with the herbicide treatments contracted with Polatin Ecological to achieve the best result. The price per mowing according to Bruce Scherer of Heritage Fields would be \$2415 per mowing, totaling \$4830 for the year.

McLean Barn

There was a brief discussion of the Barn – Ellen will work with the DPW, the Town Engineer and the Police to attempt to secure the site and the building. We will meet with the proponents of restoring the Barn after that.

Belmont Citizens' Forum Volunteer Day

May 9th, the Belmont Citizens' Forum and New England Mountain Bike Association will hold a Volunteer Day at Lone Tree Hill. They will concentrate their efforts at the top of the Coal Road to begin the process of dealing with run off, drainage, erosion and stormwater management. Andy Healy of McLean will coordinate with Tom Grimble on this project and consider the availability of a crew with heavy equipment supplied by McLean Hospital. The Committee is very pleased and grateful to have Lone Tree Hill chosen again for the volunteer day by Belmont Citizens' Forum and of course for the considerable contribution of labor, materials, expertise and equipment by McLean to assist in the Coal Road and other projects on property.

Tree Liability

The question by a Belmont resident about who owns a tree that is threatening her property in the Woodlands was resolved. The tree is located on private property owned by McLean and McLean will be in touch with the resident and will pay to have the tree secured or removed, based upon their best judgment.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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