

## October 13,2022 Land Stewardship Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 by Ann Welsh. Members attending: John Carroll, Ann Welsh, Sally Needell, Larry Brickner-Wood, Mike Everngam, John Nachilly, and Marty Gorham, and Sally Tobias On Zoom: Mike Drooker Also present: Tom Brightman and Todd Selig
2. The Agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The meeting minutes of June 9, 2022 were approved with two abstentions
4. The new at-large member of the LSSC, Marty Gorham introduced himself.
5. Handicapped parking at Wagon Hill Farm is now available next to the barn along with signage.

### 6/7. Land Stewardship Coordinator Updates:

- a. In order to have agreement between the signage at Packers Falls and the Town Code, the committee voted to change the wording of the Town Code to show that the property is open between dusk and dawn. Sally Needell offered to bring the change to the code to the next meeting.
- b. UNH Extension/Durham invasive species plant program brought representatives from numerous towns to Durham to visit sites and hold a discussion of managing invasive plants. Resources for management will be made available. New invasive plants are targeted for management.
- c. US Fish and Wildlife is waiting to see what funding they will have for projects in Durham. One project is the mowing of the Wagon Hill South meadow (that DPW will be mowing this year).
- d. Tom Brightman and Duane Hyde represented Durham in an interview regarding conservation lands, trails, and history with WCVB. The show will be aired in November or February.
- e. At the Milne site 114 plugs of new plants were planted. Three species were included and will add to the spring bloom.
- f. The Managing Our Lands working group has collected 150 online and 64 in-person questionnaires for Wagon Hill Farm. The online questionnaires for Spruce Hole Bog and Oyster River Forest are now in Friday Updates.
- g. Signage Updates for Doe Farm. Steve Lutterman, our GIS operator, would like to have a more interactive trails map for the town properties. A new base map is needed for this process. The resulting maps would allow for links to additional information.  
Mike Everngam started the discussion regarding signage at Doe Farm with the suggestion that no fires be allowed on the site. The town is not able to protect this site in the event of a fire; the Durham Fire Department would have difficulty reaching the site with the necessary equipment. There is a history of campfires on the site, and it has been challenging to stop the fires from being built. A discussion of the permitting process followed. The penalty for building a campfire is not addressed on the signs. Mike Evengam will check with the Durham Fire Department regarding any statutory penalty regulations, and Todd Selig will contact the DPD. The LSSC voted for a No Camping/No Fires policy unanimously.

8. Land Stewardship budget: The budget request for the Land Stewardship Coordinator salary is \$32,000 and for the Long Marsh Bridge is \$3000.

## 9. Committee Reports

- Town Council: Presentations of an Indigenous Peoples archeological project in Durham and the Housing Task Force
- Planning Board: Gerrish subdivision, solar amendment, and Housing Task Force
- Agriculture Commission: Looking at issues associated with agricultural land and solar energy production including solar energy production on town lands and land stewardship.
- HDC.HC: Discussion of ideas for the use of the Pump House at the Town Landing, roof repair, and WH funding.
- P&R: Trot in the Trees and Trick or Treat downtown are coming up.
- Trustees: Invasive Removal at Doe Farm-buckthorn cluster.
- ConCom: Looking at long term plans for invasives

Other: Committee members are asked to consider whether there would be a better time for our meetings. For a meeting to be held officially, there must be a quorum in the chambers.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43.