

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2022

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 8:30 am by Sally Tobias, acting chair. **Members attending:** John Carroll, John Nachilly, Marty Gorham, Larry BricknerWood, Sally Tobias, Sally Needell, Gale Carey. Mike Drooker and Ann Welsh on Zoom. Also attending on Zoom: Tom Brightman and Todd Selig.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The meeting minutes of October 13, 2022 were approved with one abstention.

4. Land Stewardship Coordinator Updates-Tom Brightman

a.Thompson Forest: The subcommittee discussed plans for mowing and tree cutting that will maintain the open meadow and allow for the continued presence of an early succession forest on the property. The meadow will be mowed and large invasives pulled this fall, and then in following years half of the meadow (lengthwise) will be mowed. Three to four acres of trees, about half of the young forest, will be removed as well as trees encroaching on the trails.

Motion: The Land Stewardship Coordinator will explore funding opportunities for a 3-4 acre timber cut at the Thompson Forest. Unanimously approved.

b.Fogg Easement: The ownership of the property has changed. The Town needs agreement from the new owner to keep trails open on the land adjacent to the easement. These trails are key connectors to existing trails on town and UNH land, private properties, and easements.

The LSSC members support meeting with new land owners and the establishment of long-term plans.

5. Stewarding Our Lands Update-Gale Carey

Members were asked to comment on the summaries of the questionnaire data collected online and in-person for the Doe Farm and Stevens Woods site. Suggestions were made for using consistent wording structure for each summary. Adding the towns listed by users was suggested.

In addition the use of two QR codes at the kiosks to give users information about trails on other town land and to let users know about the businesses in town. Also it was suggested that there be information about who to contact with concerns and interest in volunteering via texting or email at each kiosk.

The Stevens Woods discussion included the suggestion that there be an effort to coordinate with the UNH Woodlands Committee over maintenance of the trails that connect to Town trails. The UNH Woodlands Committee oversees woodlands throughout NH. The LSS discussion led to wondering if it would be appropriate to have a request from the Durham's Conservation Commission asking to help coordinate our activities with the group making the decisions.

6. Changing the meeting day

Ann will send out a questionnaire to see if there is a better meeting time, and will check with Craig Stevens about when DCAT is available for the meetings.

7. Reports from Committees

Town Council: Work on the 2023 budget plans

Planning Board: Housing Amendment presentation and discussion

Agriculture: Focus on pollinators and encouraging property owners to support them

Conservation Commission: Discussion of the Climate Action Mitigation Plan at the next meeting

HDC/HC: Plans for new roofing for the building at WHF are proceeding; another LCHIP grant for the building at WHF is being pursued, and the committee is working with the Section 106

Committee on the Mill Pond Dam removal process.

Parks and Rec: Interested in future WHF plans

8. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.