

**Land Stewardship Subcommittee  
Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road  
Draft Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2023**

**Members Attending:** Gale Carey, Ted Howard (for Mike Everngam), John Carroll and Marty Gorham.

**Attending via Zoom:** Mike Drooker.

**Absent:** Ann Welsh, Larry Brickner-Wood, John Nachilly, and Mike Everngam.

**Also attending:** Sara Callaghan, Todd Selig, Rachel Gasowski, and Richard Reine

**1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Gale Carey.**

**2. LSSC goal setting**

A number of the subcommittee members participated in a discussion regarding goal setting. It was suggested that members provide in writing their suggestion for subcommittee goals. The goals outlined below may be used as a starting point.

1. Property Management
  - a. The subcommittee shall develop and review guidelines for the protection and management of town-owned lands.
  - b. Assist with the annual monitoring of town-held conservation easements.
  - c. The subcommittee members shall walk key properties periodically to identify both issues and new opportunities for improvement.
  - d. Provide guidance to ensure that town properties are managed to sustain wildlife and control invasive plants.
2. Support the Land Stewardship Coordinator
  - a. Provide input to the land stewardship coordinator on projects and priorities.
  - b. Take responsibility for projects that the land stewardship coordinator cannot address within their allotted work time.
  - c. Assist the land stewardship coordinator with securing volunteer resources as needed.
3. Collaborate with Town Departments and other Stakeholders.
  - a. Help facilitate an efficient use of DPW resources.
  - b. Coordinate town land use with Parks and Recreation.
  - c. Maintain a relationship with UNH.
  - d. Collaborate with appropriate state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations.
4. Education
  - a. Educate and assist private land owners to help community members make what the LSSC believes are prudent land stewardship decisions.
  - b. Direct land owners to the UNH Cooperative Extension when appropriate.

**3. Doe Farm**

Ted Howard stated that overnight camping is an ongoing concern and that unacceptable activity at the Dow Farm can be reported to the Durham Police. Some of the chief concerns with camping on

Sara stated that she, along with a group of Boy Scouts, will be working at the Doe Farm on Sunday 10/15/2023 to hand-pull buckthorn in an area along the water's edge. Last week, NRCS was at the Doe Farm to apply herbicide to buckthorn in the northern part of the property. Where possible, some of the buckthorn will be cut back and stump treated.

#### **4. Wagon Hill Farm**

Rich Reine presented an update on the Site-3 footbridge, culvert, boardwalk and trail work at wagon hill farm.

Sara and Rich will work together to develop an approach to manage disposition of invasive plant material at the wagon hill farm on site.

#### **5. Land Stewardship Coordination Updates**

##### **Budget**

The proposed land steward budget presently includes \$32,000 for Sara working 10 hours per week plus approximately \$2,000 for mowing at the Oyster River Forest trails, the Thompson Forest trails, the Thompson Forest fields and Pike property field.

##### **Mill Pond Invasive Species**

VHB is working as a consultant to the town to manage the mill pond dam removal and it is recommended that VHB include invasive species management.

##### **Capstone Conservation Easement Monitoring**

Ellen Snyder will present a proposal to the Conservation Commission to provide easement monitoring for the Capstone Conservation Easement off Technology Drive.

##### **Trail Stewardship**

There will be a training session for trail stewards at the town hall on 11/6/2023.

##### **Jackson Landing**

Rachel and Sara walked the Jackson Landing to identify potential signage improvements.

#### **6. Reports from Committees**

Mike Drooker presented and discussed the proposed Durham Parks and Recreation assessment study objectives, tasks and timeline.

#### **7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.**

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.