

## “Stewarding Our Lands” LSS Working Group

### 2/13/23 meeting summary

In attendance: Sally Needell, Gale Carey, Sara Callaghan, Mike Drooker (Zoom), Ann Welsh (Zoom)

- 1) We reviewed the Jan 30, 2023 LSC meeting discussion of **Wagon Hill** Questionnaire Findings. All agreed that focusing discussion on 3 items - parking, dogs and wildlife – was beneficial. For parking, the consensus was there is no need for more parking because the current parking limits the number of people and this is a good thing. We noted the value of a circular drive for dropping-off children for various events, as well as the value of overflow parking at the orchard for community gatherings. For dogs, the consensus was that this is a long-standing and bothersome issue. A possible way forward is to engage a UNH class on “Environment and Conflict” to study the dog issue at Wagon Hill, and suggest they visit the website of Marymoor Park in Redmond, WA for an example of how one community park has dealt with spatially separating various activities. For wildlife, there were no objections to spatially separating areas (such as bobolink nesting area or sensitive shoreline) using fencing. Lastly, the topic of how to educate Durham residents about the users and multiple (and at times, competing) uses of Wagon Hill was discussed. The value of a LSC site walk of Wagon Hill, perhaps in the late spring, would be valuable.
- 2) We reviewed the second draft of the **Oyster River Forest** Questionnaire Findings. All agreed the document looks good and ready to present to the LSC at the Feb 28 meeting.
- 3) We finalized the **Jackson’s Landing** Questionnaire, which will be posted in *Friday Updates* beginning Feb 17, for 3 weeks, and reviewed the **Wiswall** Questionnaire.
- 4) To educate *Friday Update* questionnaire respondents about Durham-owned lands, a link to the Conservation Commission page that lists all town-owned lands will be added to Question #15 on all future questionnaires.
- 5) We discussed how best to contact questionnaire respondents who expressed interest in volunteering maintain trails, stewards trails, pull invasives, monitor easements and fundraise. The email should come from the Town of Durham, and Sara is working on a short term fix until a long-term solution appears (perhaps a year away).

### Action Items:

- 1) Sara will visit UNH “Environment and Conflict” class to gauge their interest in taking on Wagon Hill dog issue as a project.
- 2) Gale will contact Todd for specific language on users of Wagon Hill (Durham residents vs. non-residents), as dictated by funding sources.
- 3) Sara will email “Leave No Trace” national organization signage to working group members.
- 4) Sara will check with NRCS about Monarch Way Station results at Wagon Hill and the possibility of NRCS presenting these findings to the LSC.
- 5) Sara will consider a LSC Wagon Hill site walk in the late spring/summer.
- 6) Gale will present the questionnaire findings from **Oyster River Forest & Spruce Hole Bog** to the LSC at the Feb 28, 2023 meeting.
- 7) Gale will send working group members a photo of a nicely delineated parking area off Wood Rd. in the Belknaps – a good example for Sara to show Rich (see next item).

- 8) Sara will contact Rich Reine about delineating parking spaces at the Oyster River Forest.
- 9) Sally will add a link to Question #15 on all future questionnaires. The link will take respondents to the Conservation Commission web page that lists all town-owned lands with links to their description and map.
- 10) Sara will contact Todd about emailing people who have volunteered to help with land stewardship.

**Next meeting:**

***Mar 17, 2023, Friday, 10 AM in Town Hall first Floor Conference Room***