

**Land Stewardship Subcommittee
Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road
Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2024**

Members Attending: Ann Welsh, John Carroll, Gale Carey, Jim Lawson, and Marty Gorham.

Attending via Zoom: Mike Drooker

Absent: Ted Howard, Larry Brickner-Wood and John Nachilly.

Also attending: Todd Selig, Sara Callaghan and Rachel Gasowski

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Ann Welsh.
2. The order of the meeting agenda was approved.
3. The minutes for the January 10, 2024 meeting were approved.
4. Stewardship Working Group Updates

Ann presented a Land Stewardship Planning and Inventory spread sheet to the subcommittee. The spread sheet is a first pass of a document that compiles a comprehensive inventory of the town properties under stewardship and describes the activities and costs required for maintenance. The document represents a significant effort and was well received by the subcommittee.

The Stewarding Our Lands working group has completed its tasks and the group is dissolved. Sincere thanks are extended to Gale Carey, Sally Needell and Mike Drooker for their efforts.

5. Land Stewardship Coordinator Updates

Proposes two new working groups; one group, working with the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department, would provide education and outreach, regarding town conservation lands. A second group would work to connect community members to trails throughout Durham, Lee and Madbury.

It was suggested that Ann attended a Conservation Committee meeting in an effort to improve communication and coordinate land stewardship and conservation objectives.

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission may be able to make funding available for the purpose of climate adaptation and resilience along coastal areas. The Doe Farm may be a candidate for some of this funding.

6. Reports and Committees

Parks and Recreation - Rachel will be meeting with a group from UNH to work on a focus group that will study parks and playgrounds.

Council – Jim mentioned that after the March Town Council elections that there will be a new council representative to the LSSC.

Agricultural Commission – John had nothing to report. The Ag Com is working to further the production of local grown food.

7. Other Updates

The LSSC members should be working to select a new committee chair.

Sara stated that additional funding is available for Phase-2 of the Wagon Hill Park shoreline improvements project.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 13, 2023 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.