

LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE
Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road
Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2024

Members Attending: Ann Welsh, John Carroll, Darrell Ford, Ted Howard, Myrta Janosz, and Marty Gorham.

Attending via Zoom: Mike Drooker

Absent: Gale Carey, Larry Brickner-Wood and John Nachilly.

Also attending: 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 February 14, 2024 meeting were approved.
4. Jim Lawson presented a matrix of nine Durham conservation areas and parks. The matrix provides a compact and concise description of each property including the location, land area, parking, recreational resources, and amenities.
5. Doe Farm Update

The trustees are exploring the possibility of obtaining a grant from the Strafford County Regional Planning Commission to help fund the addition of a study of forest climate adaptation and resilience to the forest management plan.

The Durham Conservation Commission has agreed to fund buckthorn treatment.

6. Property Management and Planning Inventory

Ann and Sara presented a spread sheet listing the 33 bridges and boardwalks owned by the town.

At the Beaudette property, a permanent replacement bridge has been permitted, the design is in process.

At Wagon Hill, public works in planning to construct additional boardwalk and a water crossing.

At the Oyster River Forest, there is a water crossing that is currently inundated with water as a result of the adjacent beaver dam.

At the Longmarsh Preserve there are five boardwalks / bridges that are in poor condition and in need of repair or replacement.

At the Longmarsh Preserve, the water crossing at the historic stone bridge, which is at the southern end of the blue trail, at the intersection of the Sweet Trail, is in need of improvement.

Sara presented a trail counter usage survey for the Longmarsh Preserve.

7. Land Stewardship Coordinator Updates

A request was made to the Conservation Commission to add two alternates to the LSSC.

A suggestion was made to the Conservation Commission to consider creating a subcommittee to work on outreach and education focused on land stewardship and the town conservation lands. The CC requested a more detailed proposal.

Jeremy Howland will be performing lichen survey site work at the Longmarsh Preserve on April 23 and 24 between 9am and 12pm. Members are invited to observe the site work.

Members of the Airforce ROTC will be working on the Longmarsh Preserve yellow trail on Sunday, April 14 between 10am to 1pm.

Members of ATO will be working at the Pike Property on Friday, April 19 to remove old fencing and invasive species management.

Members of a UNH class will be working at the Milne Sanctuary to perform clean-up and trail mulching.

Doucet Survey has provided a final quote of \$19,760 for a land survey of Jackson's Landing. The town will seek to request two other quotes before proceeding.

8. Reports and Committees

Parks and Recreation - Rachel has been coordinating with UNH to work on a focus group that will study parks and playgrounds.

Agricultural Commission – John stated that the AC is forming two new citizen focus groups, of perhaps 10 to 12 residents, to provide input to the AC on enhancing local food production.

9. 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.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.