

These minutes were approved at the June 23, 2023 meeting.

MINUTES

Trustees of the Trust Funds Meeting
May 26, 2023
Council Chamber, Town Hall
8:30 AM

Members Present: Mike Everngam – Chair, Tom Bebbington, Ted Howard (via Zoom)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sara Callaghan, Land Stewardship Coordinator

- I. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.
- II. Mr. Everngam moved to allow Mr. Howard to participate as a voting member via Zoom, Mr. Bebbington seconded. Passed.
- III. There were no members of the public present and no public input.
- IV. Approval of Agenda. Chair Everngam moved approval as posted, Mr. Bebbington seconded. Passed.
- V. Approval of Minutes: Chair Everngam moved approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2023, meeting as posted on the Trustees webpage, Mr. Bebbington seconded. Passed.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Update on Doe Farm/Land Stewardship Sub-Committee (LSSC).

In response to recent questions, Chair Everngam began by clarifying the authority of the Trustees over decisions regarding Doe Farm vis-à-vis the Land Stewardship Sub-Committee. Doe Farm was left to the town in trust, rather than outright ownership, and the town must abide by the terms of that trust. Since the trust gives possession and control of the monies generated by Doe Farm to the Trustees and not the LSSC, any decision regarding the administration of the Farm that has a financial impact ultimately belongs to the Trustees. This is in contrast to town-owned properties where the LSSC is the primary decision-making body.

Sara Callaghan then gave an update on glossy buckthorn control efforts at Doe Farm. She had recently walked Invasive Species Management Control Area II, the most severely infested area, and found multiple clusters or patches of buckthorn, including some where the forest canopy is open. The stump-cut and herbicide treatment proposed for this year will address the larger clusters which are the main seed source, but foliar treatment will be needed to eradicate smaller buckthorn plants nearby. This will result in a 2-year project, with additional funds needed from the Conservation Commission. Chair Everngam observed that we should also seek donations and grants in addition to funding from the Conservation Commission; Ms. Callaghan noted that some state grants are

contingent on the land being left open for hunting, which Chair Everngam noted is a use which is incompatible with the recreational use of Doe Farm. Mr. Howard stated that the NRSC has cost-sharing programs for invasives control, although as a municipal-owned property Doe Farm may not be eligible. Ms. Callaghan will research the availability of grants for invasives control.

Chair Everngam then reviewed the proposal from the Rockingham County Conservation District for the 2023 herbicide treatment totaling \$4000, noting that we currently have approximately \$9800 in the Doe Trust. After discussion, he moved to approve the RCCD proposal for an amount not to exceed \$4250, seconded by Mr. Howard. Passed. Chair Everngam also moved to cancel the preliminary authorization for invasives removal voted on during the April Trustees meeting, seconded by Mr. Bebbington. Passed.

Ms. Callaghan also noted that she had reached out to the Boy Scouts for assistance with hand-pulling of buckthorn closer to the river but had some concern about the high numbers of ticks in the area.

Ms. Callaghan then turned to the Professional Work Agreement from Charlie Moreno for a new Forest Management Plan. Given our limited funds, she noted that he is proposing a thorough update of the Plan but not a forest inventory, which is the most labor-intensive and therefore costly part of any Plan. Mr. Howard noted that an inventory is needed, but that UNH forestry students might be able to conduct an inventory for us; alternatively, he himself could conduct an inventory in colder weather, once tick season has passed. Mr. Howard moved to table Mr. Moreno's proposal until next month's meeting, and will engage with UNH and with Ms. Callaghan in the meantime. Chair Everngam seconded. Passed. Mr. Howard then stated the he would have to depart the meeting.

Ms. Callaghan stated that she will reach out the UNH and Cooperative Extension regarding the proposal to reenroll Doe Farm in the Tree Farm program. She also noted that she had been told that the path to the Laroche property should be brushed out, and that she will work with the Boy Scouts on that. She also noted that the LSSC would be pleased to have volunteer stewards for Doe Farm as they do for other town properties, but does not know who, if anyone, is designated as such for Doe Farm. She will attend the 6/23 meeting to provide updates.

B. Update on Cemetery Committee.

Mr. Bebbington reported that there have been two burials since last month. He also noted that he had shown plots to another two potential buyers, with a third scheduled for next week, and that a check had arrived for one of the plots he had shown last month. He'd also fielded several calls for information and responded to Town Councilor Ellie Lonske's inquiries about a "green burials" site. Chair Everngam noted that the Committee had been asked several years ago to consider a site on the north side of Wagon Hill for green burials, and that such burials were often not possible on conservation and around town because of deed restrictions, and the general difficulty of siting a new burial ground in accordance with regulations. Lastly, Mr. Bebbington noted that he'd met with Mike Pelczar to survey the damaged headstones at the cemetery and expected a proposal/estimate for that work soon.

C. Discussion/approval of 2023-24 goals.

In the absence of Mr. Howard, Chair Everngam moved to table the discussion until the next Trustees meeting. Mr. Bebbington seconded. Passed.

VII. New Business

A. Expenditure Requests.

There were no new expenditure requests.

B. Monthly MS-9 Spreadsheet.

Chair Everngam stated that this month's MS-9 was not yet complete. He will report the results at the next Trustees meeting.

C. Reports or issues brought forward by Trustees: none.

VII. Adjourn.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2023, at 8:30 AM.

Approved: /s/ Michael H. Everngam
Michael H. Everngam

Date