

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**Via teleconference - 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tom Brownrigg, Dwight DeMay, Debby Geltner, Julie Durrell, Warren Lyman, and Rhonda Michaud. Judy Asarkof was absent. Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard was present.

This meeting was conducted by Zoom teleconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with all participants at home. The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Chair Lyman.

The December 15, 2022, minutes were approved as amended.

1. Towle Field

a. Suggested sign describing field management

Asarkof, Durrell, and Geltner designed a sign describing the new field mowing/management with illustrations by Durrell and photograph by Asarkof. Members generally approved of the sign, but with a few suggested modifications. Geltner will work on a revised version of the sign for discussion at the next meeting.

Prior the meeting Asarkof requested a discussion of planting native plants at Towle Field. However, since Asarkof was unable to attend the meeting, discussion was postponed until the February meeting.

b. Input to Town Newsletter regarding Towle Field

Lyman wrote a summary of the new field management to be published in a new on-line newsletter for Town employees and the public. Members were satisfied with the written content, but there was discussion regarding the photograph chosen, namely field mower Sam Bell on his tractor at Towle Field. After discussion it was decided that Lyman will submit other photos (by Asarkof) showing wildflowers and the newsletter editor will make the final decision.

2. Foss Farm – Protection of Sandplain-Grassland Habitat

Willard said that there has been no action taken by ConsCom regarding the proposal. Discussion was continued until the next meeting.

3. Cranberry Bog

Lyman attended the December 19 Cranberry Bog Working Group (CBWG) meeting and sent LSC members notes of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13 and Lyman plans to attend.

ConsCom has approved the formation of a “Friends of the Cranberry Bog” group that would assist with routine maintenance at the bog. Willard said any work that they do would need to have the prior approval of ConsCom. Geltner asked how she could find out what the Friends group is planning to do. Willard said that this would be noted in the minutes of the CBWG, although the minutes are usually not completed until soon before the next CBWG meeting.

Willard said that the shed which housed the pump has been removed by Mark Duffy and coworkers. The inlet/outlet pipes were capped by Chris Spinney (abutter), but Geltner said that she did not see caps on the pipe; Willard will investigate.

#### 4. Invasive Plants on Major Conservation Lands

Asarkof had requested a discussion of removing invasive plants from major conservation lands, but discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Willard noted that there is a large stand of Japanese Knotweed near the Greenough barn which should be removed after the barn is demolished. At the recent FinCom meeting she requested funding for Japanese Knotweed removal. ConCom has funds for an associated Notice of Intent, but not for the actual removal. She did not know the availability of John Bakewell for future herbicide treatments.

#### 5. Stewardship Program

##### a. Assignment changes and responsibilities

Prior to the meeting Lyman distributed an updated (12/27/22) property assignment list. He also noted that he added “erosion” to a list of conditions to be noted in the report. He has recently seen erosion at Fisk Meadow near the field entrance off Lowell St., probably due to Mark Duffy’s farming vehicles. The entrance to the Bisbee Land leading from Concord St. also has erosion.

Lyman purchased an “app” mentioned by Asarkof called “OnX Hunt” which combines GPS and assessors’ parcels, from which approximate property boundaries can be determined. It also shows trails. He thought it could be useful for checking boundaries.

##### b. Review of available checklists

Lyman sent checklists for Benfield, Bisbee, and Fisk Meadow prior to the meeting for review. DeMay and Durrell visited the Swanson Land (near Carlisle Pines State Park) and noted that the Trail Committee disk signs were being “eaten” by trees. Willard said that she will bring this to

the attention of the Trails Committee. Durrell said that wooly adelgid is on hemlocks growing in the area. Willard asked Durrell to send photos and that said that she will contact the Great Brook Farm State Park Supervisor John Aziz

DeMay visited MacAfee Land and said that pines planted too close together were dying and coming down.. Lyman said that he removes wooly adelgid from his own trees by spraying three times a year with horticultural oil, although he is only able to reach lower branches with his sprayer.

Several others made suggestions for checklists, including: the name(s) of the stewards doing the inspection; adding footnotes for sign abbreviations (e.g. PCS) for each form; and noting serious problems that should be addressed quickly.

c. Anticipated reporting by stewards

Lyman would like all properties to have checklists by April. Checklists with reports should be submitted by the end of the calendar year. Willard said that a list of items should be submitted by the end of the August for possible funding at Town Meeting.

d. Progress report to ConsCom

Lyman asked Willard when LSC should discuss the stewardship program with ConsCom, and she said that this could be combined with the discussion of the Foss Farm proposal for protection of grassland habitat.

6. Earth Day: Route to Sustainability Program

LSC was invited to participate in Earth Day, scheduled for April 22, 2023. Lyman suggested that LSC have a table with one or two posters. This would require that someone be present during the morning and afternoon sessions for a total of four hours. He asked members if they were interested in participating. All members present expressed an interest in participating, provided they were available on that day. Geltner and Durrell will think about the design of posters.

Lyman will contact Christina Christodouloupoulos of the Environmental Sustainability Committee and tell her that LSC will participate. He said that there is \$162 remaining unspent in an ARPA account that might be used for preparation of posters.

7. New LSC Member Search

Willard said that an announcement for new members for ConsCom and LSC appeared in the January 6 Carlisle Mosquito, but she has not received inquiries.

Documents discussed at meeting:

- W. Lyman and R. Michaud, “Responsibilities for Land Stewards Related to their Assigned Conservation Properties” (draft revised by D. Geltner), Dec. 9, 2022.
- W. Lyman and R. Michaud, “Town-Owned Conservation Lands & Requested Steward Assignments”, revised Dec. 27, 2022.

**Next Meetings:**

February 7, 2023 @ 7 PM

March 14, 2023 @ 7 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Tom Brownrigg

Minutes approved: 2/07/23