

Land Management Committee MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday October 12, 2022
Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 22, 2022
TIME: 8:57 AM

Land Management Committee Members Present:

Tom Grimble, Radha Iyengar, Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Carl Solander, Andy Healy, Adriana Bobinchock, Steve Kidder, Jeff North (joined at 8:04)

Community Members Present:

Jeanne Mooney, Joseph Hibbard

1. 8:01 PM Meeting Called to Order

T. Grimble presiding. C. Solander Minutes.

2. Minutes

- Minutes from September 7 LMC meeting were distributed. R. Iyengar had comments which were incorporated. Motion to approve: R. Iyengar, S. Kidder seconded. Members voting yes: A. Healy, A. Bobinchock, R. Iyengar, T. Grimble, C. Solander, E. O'Brien Cushman. S. Kidder Motion passed unanimously.

3. Invoices

- Invoice #86151 from Tree Specialists for elimination of knot weed in the amount of \$381. T. Grimble motion to approve, S Kidder seconded. Members voting yes: A. Healy, A. Bobinchock, R. Iyengar, T. Grimble, C. Solander, E. O'Brien Cushman, S. Kidder, J North. Motion passed unanimously.
- Invoice Parterre #8568 for \$2602.25 for treatment of black swallowart and purple loosestrife. T. Grimble made a motion to approve, S. Kidder seconded the motion. Members voting yes: A. Healy, A. Bobinchock, R. Iyengar, T. Grimble, C. Solander, E. O'Brien Cushman. S. Kidder, J North. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3 Invoices from Nunez Landscaping, #141, 142, 143: 4 mowings of trails and meadow for \$1700 total. T. Grimble made a motion to approve, S. Kidder seconded. Members voting yes: A. Healy, A. Bobinchock, R. Iyengar, T. Grimble, C. Solander, E. O'Brien Cushman. S. Kidder, J. North. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Tree Specialist: Mowing of the Verge

- Heritage Fields plans to mow the verge when they mow the meadow in late October.

5. Financial update

- Review of finances: Joan Campbell Endowment, Conservation Gift Fund, Cell Tower income.
- Out of the principal of the Joan Campbell fund, 3% of the principal can be used annually.

6. Boundary survey, marking and enforcement near barn

- T. Grimble inquired about an existing boundary survey and could not find one.

- E. O'Brien Cushman said that there is an existing rock wall that is the property line. It might be a wasted expenditure to conduct a survey if the rock wall is a known boundary.
- J. Hibbard suggested that an approximation of the boundary could be found by measuring off of the side of the barn.
- C. Solander stated that the neighboring property probably had a survey done during construction which would be on file at the building department.
- T. Grumble agreed with J. Hibbard that the shed is on the abutter's property and not an encroachment.
- E. O'Brien Cushman said the issue is more about accessing abutting property across the LTH public land than about encroaching structures.

7. Kiosk on Coal Road

- T. Grumble to follow up with JKR fund about funding kiosks.
- R. Iyengar noted that there have been complaints about unleashed dogs on the property and maybe additional signage would help the issue.
- T. Grumble noted that someone was recently bitten.
- J. Hibbard witnessed two dog walkers with 6 dogs each off-leash.
- Name of dog walking service is not known.
- T. Grumble stated that business use is not allowed on conservation land. Commercial dog walking services are conducting business on conservation land.

8. Invasives Working Group (IWG)

- J. North stated that the working group is evaluating the results of their work this year. At the next meeting they will have a proposed plan for next year based on this evaluation.
- Parterre was called back to complete areas that they were contracted to do which were not completely treated.
- There have been more volunteers on the property this year than in any previous year and much has been accomplished.
- IWG is seeking expert opinions on strategies for which they do not have evidence of results.
- One area of the wildflower planting did not thrive because of poor quality soil. Parterre has agreed to return and replant free of charge.
- T. Grumble received a proposal from Parterre for work on Norway Maple. J. North said that we are not ready to accept a proposal for this work until the strategy has been evaluated more thoroughly. When ready there will be an RFP to solicit multiple bids for the work.
- J. North asked if LMC would like to have a presentation by Parterre at the end of the year about the results of their work and proposals going forward.
- T. Grumble stated that the IWG should coordinate the content with Parterre. J. Hibbard said that is the intent.
- J. North and J. Hibbard have written an article in the Belmont Citizen's Form which is forthcoming.

9. Parterre work

- Add-on proposal for \$500 for hand-cutting of invasives. The work has been completed. Proposal dated 9/13 was voted on during the previous meeting based on a verbal quote.
- Parterre field report was circulated.
- A. Healy said that the area between the barn and the road is looking overgrown and requires maintenance.

- J. North said that the landscape around the barn will be taken into account in the 2023 plan.
- J. Hibbard stated that he can remove buckthorn i near the Barn next year.

10. McLean Barn

- T. Grumble will reach out to Madden Planning Group to get a revised proposal.
- Discussion of moving funds out of the Joan Campbell Endowment this year to pay for invasives management, which would allow cell tower money to accumulate to for the barn facilitator next year.

11. Next Meeting: November 2.

- Ellen cannot attend.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Solander