

Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes
10 March 2014
Meeting #8

Present: Analiese Larsen, Fred Mascioangelo, Caleb Hemphill, Ted Asherman, Lucky D'Ascanio,
Dave Gagnon, Bob Shafto, Aaron Svedlow Absent: Sean Mahoney, Jed Harris

Item #1: Dogs, Part II

Lucky reported that she is getting good cooperation with the Police Department regarding the enforcement of existing dog laws. This should go a long way to ameliorating our dog problems. Other ideas people liked included:

- Requiring that dogs be leashed in parking areas and within 100 ft. of trailheads.
- Require that every person have a leash in their possession.
- Requiring that professional dog walkers get permits to access town land.

We also discussed the idea of closing River Point to dogs year around; hosting a meeting of people interested in the dog issue and asking for their input into solutions to the problems we are experiencing; and asking the Council to delegate dog rule making to our committee. None of this will go to the Council until Nathan thinks they are ready to deal with the issue.

Finally, Aaron reports that the Conservation Commission will likely sponsor an "April Stools Day" to get people out to clean up the dog mess the melting snow reveals.

Item #2: Tick Survey

We reviewed the offer from Maine Med's Vector-borne Disease Laboratory regarding their survey services, but decided that we already know we have a problem. Thus, we should pass on the service, but think about doing a better job of posting warnings about the problem on our properties.

Item #3: Tree Growth Meeting

We are all set for this meeting on March 25th, 7:00 at the library. Caleb & Bob will work on the agenda. We won't extend the invitation to other forest land owners who don't have their property in Tree Growth or Tree Farm status.

Item #4: Open Space Finance Plan

Lucky gave an overview of some thinking Nathan has done about financing open space in the future. People liked the idea of an impact fee, of selling tidbit lots and other buildable town-owned land with little conservation value, excepting the Pyle lot which they felt should be retained for its wildlife corridor value. They also liked the idea of putting half of any tree growth penalty income into the open space acquisition account. A transfer of development rights policy should be investigated as well.

Updates

- ❖ The Lowell Farm property has been sold to a person with conservation interest. We'll do a mitigation grant for the southern end this summer.
- ❖ Bob is meeting with a team of high school students today who are interested in producing some "1-Minute Videos" showing various hikes on our trails.
- ❖ The River Point bridge RFP is out and there seems to be a lot of interest. Responses are due April 3rd, so we'll see.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. Next meeting date:
April 14th, 8:00 a.m.