

Minutes, Meeting of the Kampoosa Stewardship Committee
Monday, July 17, 2023, 5 p.m.
Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA

Committee Members:

Present: Laura Beasley, Chair; Lisa Bozzuto, Rich Bradway, Louise Gachet

Absent: Arthur Dutil, Sally Underwood-Miller

1. Approve minutes from 6/26/23 meeting

Laura Beasley moved to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2023, meeting; Lisa Bozzuto seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

2. Alison Dixon, Berkshire Watershed Conservation Manager, Housatonic Valley Association

Alison Dixon, soon-to-be-departing Berkshire Watershed Conservation Manager at the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), introduced herself and spoke about the work that the HVA has done with regional conservation partners to address aquatic habitat restoration and watershed resilience in the face of climate change.

The HVA administers the Berkshire Clean, Cold and Connected water program, a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration, Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). The program's purpose is to accelerate the pace of ecological restoration in Berkshire County. Mike Jastremski is the supervisor at HVA.

3. Vision, Mission Statements and Objectives (Laura)

This agenda item was tabled for discussion at the September 18, 2023, meeting.

4. Water Quality - 2016 road salt study, 1996 water quality report (Lisa)

Because not all committee members have had a chance to read the documents sent to members by Lisa Bozzuto, this issue was tabled to a future meeting. Recommendations from the 1996 Water Quality Background Report, by Jamie Faro Balliett, Massachusetts DEM ACEC Program, include reducing the use of chemicals on the Massachusetts Turnpike and Route 7; updating the 1984 Management Plan (done); and maintaining a commitment to the 1999 Resource Management Plan.

5. Document from The Nature Conservancy (Louise)

The group discussed the documents shared with the committee by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). These documents, from the 1990s and early 2000s, largely documented the presence

and the subsequent removal of some of the invasive species in the bog. Any questions about the documents or further communication with TNC are to be sent to Louise, who will combine them into a single follow-up communication to TNC.

6. MVP Grant

The committee discussed the possibility of seeking MVP or other grants with an eye to funding the management of invasives after first funding surveys of the ACEC. Before undertaking any of that work, it would be helpful for the committee to find out what agencies, if any, are actively surveying or managing invasives.

MVP Background Information: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness; this is a state program that offers grants. Lisa is interested in getting grants for dealing with invasives. She is in contact with the Native Plant Trust and will share further information about this at a future meeting.

7. Rep for Justice40

No further information about this program since the previous meeting.

Background info: This is a federal program. Stockbridge was designated as a community that is severely impacted (disadvantaged). Many factors are involved in determining a community's designation, including transportation, climate change, housing, clean water, and pollution. This program gives money to communities impacted by climate change, among other things.

Selectman Patrick White asked that we have a representative from this committee to figure out how Stockbridge might benefit. For this committee, that would mean getting money directed to the bog. Laura feels this is premature since we have not articulated mission, vision, and goals.

We don't know how climate change will affect the bog. We do know that road salt affects the water quality and by extension the plant life in the bog; we do know that the bog is valuable in terms of carbon and methane sequestration.

Laura will let Patrick White know that at this point, we are not yet able to provide a Justice40 representative.

6. Public comment

There was no public comment.

Other issues: Dates for the next three meetings are September 18, October 16, and November 20, 2023.

9. Adjournment

Laura adjourned the meeting.

10. Link to recording of the meeting.

Regrettably, this meeting was not recorded.