

Minutes, Meeting of the Kampoosa Stewardship Committee  
Monday, September 18, 2023, 5 p.m.  
Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA

Committee Members:

Present: Laura Beasley, Chair; Lisa Bozzuto, Rich Bradway, Louise Gachet, Sally Underwood-Miller

Absent: Arthur Dutil

## **1. Approve minutes from 7/17/23 meeting**

Approval of minutes postponed; Lisa Bozzuto and Laura Beasley will provide additional notes for July meeting minutes.

## **2. Vision, Mission Statements and Objectives (Laura)**

The committee discussed including “restore” in the committee’s aspirational vision statement and to what point in time the committee would aim to restore Kampoosa (pre-Turnpike?). After much discussion, the committee agreed on the following:

*To preserve, protect, and restore the fen by fostering community support and stewardship of the Kampoosa Bog Drainage Basin ACEC and environs, while preventing further deterioration to the flora, fauna, water, and environment.*

Rich Bradway moved to support the vision statement; Lisa seconded. VOTE: Unanimous. With this finalized vision, the committee knows how to move forward and focus its agenda.

Regarding the mission statement, Laura will email the draft mission for committee members to review before the next meeting. Laura will print copies for discussion at the next meeting.

In a related discussion about facilitating resource sharing and coordinating cultural data, Rich spoke about the Land Trust database of information on conservation restriction properties that are within the environs of the ACEC. From there, the committee moved on to discuss the absence of digital space for this committee provided by the Town. Without adequate digital space for documents and their organization, the committee’s activities are significantly hampered. Lisa wondered whether we should invite Michael Canales to the next meeting to discuss the absence of digital space accessible by all committee members. The Town offered us only one logon, which cannot be shared among committee members. Lisa also suggested that the Stockbridge Library might provide an archive of committee materials, so that anyone who was studying the bog could have access to materials there. Lisa will ask the library about this. Sally Underwood-Miller asked about the possibility of applying for a grant for the software that The Land Trust uses; Laura will ask Michael Canales about that. Could the committee be turned into a nonprofit? Rich suggested going to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to ask

whether such software would be useful tool for the whole county. Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) also uses the software. It would be so useful for accumulating data over time from site visits in the ACEC.

### **3. Area of focus (Laura)**

Laura asked: What is it that we want to do? The committee agrees on two areas of focus that were also from the original management plan: Invasives and water quality.

Lisa asserted that the first step is a current survey of invasives. We don't know when a comprehensive survey of the ACEC was last done. Rich described a baseline survey: Someone walks through the property, identifying the location and numbers of invasives and other plants and looking for evidence of aquifers and other influences on the watershed. Rich has positive experience with a company called Conservation Works LLC in Northampton, MA. Rich will ask Jess Toro about when a survey was last done. Jess's company last did work in the ACEC in 2009, 2010?

Committee members wondered what The Nature Conservancy has done in the way of surveys and whether TNC is interested in undertaking one. Louise will invite TNC Land Steward Rene Wendell to the October meeting and ask whether TNC has done any recent surveys and what data collection is ongoing. Is TNC interested in doing surveys? Is water quality equipment—originally installed by UMass, according to Sally, but now on TNC property just off Rattlesnake Road—being used to collect water quality data?

### **4. MVP Grant / CPC Funding**

The committee would like to find grant money to fund a survey. Lisa asked: Does the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) fund surveys? Sally reports that CPC could fund a study up to about \$5K but only under certain conditions. Sally will ask Jenny Merrill about that. There is also still the issue of the money for the hydrology study; that \$50,000 is available from the Town. Sally will ask if Ericka Oleson, Stockbridge's Town Treasurer, can find the background info for that hydrology study money. Was it part of a bigger project that was envisioned for the ACEC?

Alison Dixon from the Housatonic Valley Association also shared info about potential sources of funds, including the Clean, Cold, and Connected partnership with Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) and BNRC.

The committee discussed applying for CPC and/or MVP grant money for a survey and follow-up work. An action grant can include an investigative portion (survey) and an action plan that is based on what is discovered in the survey. To apply for an MVP grant, the committee would have to be in contact with *all* affected parties, who would have to support what is being proposed. Because 200 acres of the ACEC are in Lee, MA, and we don't know who owns that property, we will need to identify people and committees in Lee who can help us reach the

right people. Lisa had previously contacted the Lee Conservation Commission and Lee Land Trust but had no response. To get their attention, we could try to get on their agenda and show up for a meeting. Laura will look into communicating with Lee ConComm and Land Trust. Sally will contact Lee Selectman Bob Jones to let him know about the Kampoosa committee and what we're doing. He should know that have plans to do things in the ACEC. We want to do surveys and invasives removal.

## **5. Next Meetings**

The next meetings of the committee are on October 16, 2023, November 20, 2023, December 18, 2023, and January 15, 2024. Laura can join remotely in December. Laura will reach out to Arthur Dutil to see if he needs help getting to the meeting or getting back on email.

## **6. Any other business**

Nick Fredsall, who did a drone survey in November 2022 for the committee, has expanded his capabilities for drone surveys to include 3D scanning and surveying. Rich showed a four-minute video of the bog area that Nick Fredsall took. Lisa asked if the resolution were high enough to identify *Phragmites*. Rich had asked Jess Toro about that, and she says that at the right time of year, yes, they can be identified. Costs would include about \$1500 for the actual drone work and a recurring data maintenance and access cost.

Louise Gachet asked committee members for any notes that could be added to the July meeting's minutes so she could complete those minutes and share them so that they could be voted on at the October meeting.

Rich's work on the BNRC materials about the Marians' property is now four fifths done (itemizing the documents, taking images of maps). Among those papers was documentation related to the many properties that were consolidated to become the foundation of the ACEC. If the Marians want to donate land, the committee should find some entity to take that land.

## **6. Public comment**

There was no public comment.

## **7. Adjournment**

Laura adjourned the meeting.

## **8. Link to recording of the meeting.**

To find the recording of the September 18, 2023, meeting, please go to:

<https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/>

And then search using the term *Kampoosa*.

Alternatively, access the recording on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAelpBSn18c&t=2791s>