

Minutes, Meeting of the Kampoosa Stewardship Committee
Monday, January 23, 2023, 5 p.m.
Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA

Committee Members:

Present: Lisa Bozzuto, Louise Gachet

Attending via Zoom: Laura Beasley, Chair; Rich Bradway

Absent: Arthur Dutil, John Hart

Other Attendees: Kay Sadighi, via Zoom

1. Approve minutes from 12/19/22 meeting

Laura Beasley moved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2022, meeting; Lisa Bozzuto seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

2. Status of outreach and records collection

- Stockbridge Conservation Commission (Lisa)
- Stockbridge Museum and Archives news clippings (Louise)
- NHESP (Laura)
- Local Mass Wildlife office (Rich)
- Tennessee Gas (Laura)
- The Nature Conservancy (Louise)
- BNRC (Rich)

Discussion:

Stockbridge Conservation Commission: Lisa is still reviewing ConComm documents.

The group discussed the Organizational Commitments from the 1999 Resource Management Plan, which Lisa had photocopied for this meeting and planned to share with the ConComm at its next meeting. Since no one from the Lee Land Trust or the Lee Conservation Commission has responded to Lisa's outreach, perhaps this committee will review the other organizations listed in the 1999 plan and reprioritize contacting them.

Museum & Archives News Clippings: Louise had no update on this issue.

NHESP: Laura recounted notes from her conversation with Alex Entrup, Prescribed Fire and Habitat Restoration Ecologist at Mass Wildlife. Laura provided context for the recent meeting with Alex and the Stockbridge Fire Chief at the Marian Fathers. Prescribed fires are planned for Agawam Lake, Kampoosa, and other sites in the county. Currently, there is funding for controlling invasives. NHESP a few years away from doing an actual burn, however. Its internal

plan is nearly final, but there are many steps (including with the towns and ConComms involved) yet to be taken before an actual burn occurs.

Lisa asked for reference material on the effectiveness of controlled burns. Alex had communicated to Laura that burns are just one part of what is necessary for controlling invasives. Alex will involve the ConComm (with RDA or NOI), the Stockbridge Fire Chief, and now this Committee when any prescribed burn is planned.

Laura may not be talking with Alex again. Alex clarified that he is not the person from NHESP to be involved with this Committee. That person is Chris Buelow. Alex will make contact again with Chris Buelow.

Alex would be interested in seeing the drone footage. Rich has footage and images and has not yet done the work to consolidate them into one big map.

Local Mass Wildlife Office: Rich has been in contact with two people from Mass Wildlife (Andrew Madden, Pete Milanesi) who are responsive and knowledgeable. They have a lot of material on monitoring activity in the ACEC.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline: Laura has not heard back yet from her contact at Tennessee Gas. Laura alluded to a Tennessee Gas five-year plan she found on the NHESP site for managing the area above its pipeline. Lisa asked if herbicides were mentioned in this plan; Laura confirmed that herbicides are mentioned.

The Nature Conservancy: No communications from TNC since the previous meeting. There are no updates.

BNRC: Rich has been working with BNRC to map the drone footage and images better. He will work with Nick Fredsall to get the geo-tagged info that is part of the drone files extracted and used to assemble the large map.

Rich has begun creating an inventory of documents borrowed from BNRC. These documents are related to the history of land acquired or deeded to the Marian Fathers or BNRC. Rich provided the committee with an electronic file of the work he had done showing the categories of info he is identifying for each document.

The group discussed the relative value of file type or label descriptions, including deeds, conservation restrictions, maps, and monitoring. By sharing his spreadsheet early, Rich has shown that many of the documents contain much information of little value to this committee. Triage of documents was discussed to help reduce the number of documents considered for inclusion in such an inventory. Rich will continue to work on the document inventory. If anything needs to be called out better, let him know. Louise offered to take a file to help. Rich said the Marian Fathers' file is huge. Rich can share that file.

3. Digital file storage of all records (Laura)

Discussion: Laura has not pursued this matter, pending the decision made by the Town about the Landscape software option.

4. Landscape Software licenses - did anyone speak to Stockbridge ConComm?

Discussion: Rich had shared a demo video of the Landscape software. Lisa mentioned the software at the ConComm, and Rich plans to discuss it with Ron Broucker, Chair of the Conservation Commission. Lisa was very impressed with it, especially for site visits. Rich concurred and pointed out that it also provides a good historical record. The software makes searching for deeds or CRs very quick. Discussion followed about the merits and costs of the Landscape software and its relevance to the work of different committees in Stockbridge. The cost of the software for municipalities is considerably different than the cost for nonprofits. Whereas Landscape would cost about \$700/year for The Land Trust, it would cost the Town of Stockbridge \$2500/year. But a Town license could be used by any organization within the municipality. Rich will discuss with Ron B. (ConComm) and Patrick White (Select Board) about the benefits that could be enjoyed by many committees. The per user fee concerned Louise. The municipality costs seem very different from the costs and approach for non-profits. Our committee will not be the ones to make a decision about acquiring this software. The Land Trust will be voting on the matter soon.

5. Mission and Vision Statement (Laura)

Discussion: Laura will send out language (before the next meeting) from previous committee for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Guidelines for residents in the ACEC (Laura)

Laura would like to keep this on the agenda, as it is something she believes we should be doing in the future. The Committee, possibly in connection with the ConComm, should heighten awareness of what landowners can and cannot do. State websites don't provide this kind of info to landowners. The Committee could create guidelines for people who live within or near this particular ACEC and provide information about what is possible and not possible (e.g., pesticides, composting). Rich observed that it is important to know about agreements that have been made with individual landowners over time on properties in or near (i.e., downstream of) the ACEC.

7. Commitments from 1999 Resource Management Plan (Lisa)

Discussion: Leave on for February's meeting and read them together as a group.

8. Inventory of documents template (Rich)

Discussion: This item was discussed earlier.

9. Kay Sadighi, formerly of TNC Laura welcomed Kay Sadighi, who had previously worked for The Nature Conservancy. Kay Sadighi described some of the work that she did managing

invasives for years in Kampoosa, after first being shown by Tim Simmons, of TNC and later of Natural Heritage Restoration, how to clip Phragmites and apply glyphosate (Roundup without the surfactant), as there is no spraying of chemicals in the ACEC. The clipped stems were then carted away to be burned so that the seeds were not distributed. Kay mentioned that burning Phragmites stimulates its growth (and that Phragmites is incredibly flammable). Kay also mapped the area with GPS, GIS and created transects and showed how much of a particular invasive was present in each transect. Kay was with TNC from 1992 to 2004 and worked many of those years in Kampoosa. When Kay was at TNC, there were 8 employees working with Frank Lowenstein. Kay spoke highly of a document created over one summer by the previous stewardship committee; the group determined that document is the 1999 Resource Management Plan, which we are all using. Laura explained where the committee is at this point, what its general goals are and how it envisions itself going forward: No one has been coordinating all the separate efforts going on in the ACEC. The committee has no authority, but we hope to be the clearinghouse of information. She asked Kay if she personally has any documents. She does not, but Kay may contact TNC in Boston to ask about any documentation of interest. Kay did make maps. Maybe those are available.

10. Next meeting is Monday, February 27, at 5 p.m. in the Community Room

The committee identified the location of the Community Room (over the police station).

11. Conflict with Monday, May 15. There is a town meeting that night. Can we move our meeting to May 22, 2023? Everyone present agreed to the meeting date.

12. Public comment / Any other business / Action Items

None.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Laura moved to adjourn the meeting. Rich seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

13. Link to recording of the meeting.

To find the recording of the January 23, 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=9t8-Dw9w5oQ>