

Minutes, Meeting of the Kampoosa Stewardship Committee
Monday, November 21, 2022, 5 p.m.
Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA

Committee Members:

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

Absent: John Hart

Other Attendees: Bill Loutrel, via Zoom

1. Approve minutes from 10/24/22 meeting

Discussion:

Laura Beasley moved to accept the amended minutes of the October 24, 2022, meeting; Arthur Dutil seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

2. Status of outreach and records collection

- Stockbridge Conservation Commission (Lisa)
- Lee Land Trust (Lisa)
- Museum and Archives, Stockbridge Library; previous committee minutes (Lisa)
- Museum and Archives, Stockbridge Library; news clippings (Louise)
- Map (Arthur)
- NHESP (Laura)
- The Nature Conservancy (Louise)
- BNRC (Rich)

Discussion:

Stockbridge Conservation Commission: Lisa provided list of documents found in Stockbridge ConComm office. Discussion centered on whether some or all of the documents should be scanned. Committee members expressed the need for a clear process for getting documents scanned and made available to the committee. It is important that all documents that are scanned are shared with all committee members. In addition, any documents that are scanned should be run through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software so they can be searched like any other electronic document.

Lee Land Trust: Lisa contacted the Lee Land Trust but has not yet had a response.

Museum & Archives Previous Committee Minutes: Lisa scanned and supplied to all committee members all the minutes from the previous committee that were present in the Museum & Archives (81 pages) Discussion of these minutes included the mission statement of the former Kampoosa Stewardship Committee and a wish for a similar mission statement from this committee. Lisa expressed interest in addressing this committee's need for a mission statement at a future meeting. Laura expressed an interest in addressing the mission when

more is known about the activities in the ACEC. Gathering and reading documentation about the varied activities in the ACEC will help direct the expression of this committee's mission, which may also evolve. Lisa asked about the role of this committee and how it can act with authority when there are various property owners and parties interested in the ACEC and its environs. Laura observed that the committee's role may be helping communicate to other interested and involved parties what is going on in the ACEC. Louise observed that the committee may perform an educating role. Rich proposed that the committee could act as a clearinghouse for information. The committee could coordinate so that all parties know what all other parties are doing. Rich also mentioned that the Stockbridge-Munsee community is an interested party. Rich mentioned the possibility of a cultural easement. Louise observed that offering membership to this committee seems premature at this point as so little information has been gathered and the committee cannot yet articulate plans or goals. Arthur reported that there had been a recent meeting at the Marian Fathers with state representatives and the Stockbridge Fire Chief as the state representatives (names and positions unknown) were making plans for prescribed fire in the ACEC. This is an example of actions being taken that affect the ACEC that the committee knows nothing of.

Museum & Archives News Clippings: Louise had not scanned the photocopies of various news articles from the Archives; the quality of photocopy is poor. Discussion included getting such documents from their source (such as *The Berkshire Eagle*) if the content is worth preserving in digital form.

Map: Arthur displayed a map of the ACEC from 1984 and a survey of his own property in the ACEC. It will be important to have digital copies of these maps made available to all committee members.

NHESP: Laura has not yet heard back from Chris Buelow. Rich may try to help find a way to contact NHESP through other contacts. Laura may contact someone at the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

The Nature Conservancy: Louise has no further contact with The Nature Conservancy and will follow up.

BNRC: Rich found a large filing cabinet of info related to Kampoosa at BNRC. Some of it is documentation/research that was used to support the creation of the Kampoosa Bog ACEC. Rich will review the documents. BNRC is happy to digitize some documentation for us; Rich doubts they want to provide everything to us in digital form. Rich may categorize documents that the committee would like. There may be duplication of documents related to establishment of ACEC in ConComm and BNRC files; the committee should avoid duplicating efforts to digitize these from different sources. Rich will also work to understand BNRC's land interests in the ACEC and get information related to that.

Other: Laura returned to the list of documents Jess Toro suggested we acquire. The committee still has few of those.

3. Digital file storage of all records (Laura Beasley)

Discussion: The committee can store files on the town server, but because no members of the committee are town employees, only one committee member will be permitted access (Laura). Laura has a lot of questions for the man who manages the server on behalf of the town. Louise

asked about access to a shared document that would contain metadata about the documents on the town server. Rich asked if the committee is obligated to post documentation to the town server and offered the committee space on The Land Trust's Google Drive. Lisa asked how the public would ultimately be able to access the documents, for research, for example. Laura asked how other committees handle this problem. Lisa asked about using the Stockbridge Library as a resource. Rich spoke about open-source records management system that committee members could access and assign metadata to. If the committee could find a solution that is acceptable to the town, that would be good. Laura will ask how other boards manage electronic records and access to them. Can we use the Stockbridge Library? When sharing documentation via our email access, everyone should include all members of the committee.

4. Letters to abutters and downstream folks (Laura Beasley)

Discussion: The letter is complete and ready to be sent, but the list of recipients must be created. This requires Laura working with a map and with the Assessors' Office at Town Hall. The list of recipients continues to increase. Laura hopes to send the letter by the end of the year.

5. Drone Survey (Rich Bradway, Arthur Dutil)

Discussion: The drone survey was done on Nov. 19 from the Marian Fathers property. Nick Fredall shot still images and video footage of the ACEC mostly south of the Mass Pike. Rich requested establishing shots and top-down shots (video running at 50 frames/second) 100 feet above the terrain. The survey was then done in passes across the area. Rich envisions material from the survey to create a massive map for the committee to reference. Rich showed a four-minute video of the survey to the committee members (this was not visible to Zoom attendees). The group discussed the merits of doing similar surveys in different seasons. The charge for the survey was \$1500; the images and video were provided on a thumb drive and are backed up elsewhere. Rich will share the fact of this survey with Jess Toro and request guidance from her when it would be best to do other surveys. Laura asked if the gas pipeline were visible in the survey; Rich will look for it in the images and footage.

6. Next meeting is Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Discussion: Laura will attend the meeting remotely (via Zoom). Whoever sets up Zoom for the next meeting will need the Meeting ID and passcode.

7. Public comment / Any other business / Action Items

Discussion: No public comment or new business from committee.

8. Adjournment

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

9. Link to recording of the meeting.

To find the recording of the November 21, 2022, 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=ccZEEr8PV3A>