

Minutes, Meeting of the Kampoosa Stewardship Committee
Monday, May 22, 2023, 5 p.m.
Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA

Committee Members:

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

1. Approve minutes from 2/27/23 meeting

Lisa Bozzuto moved to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting; Arthur Dutil seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

2. Confirm Meetings for June 26, July 17, August 21, and September 18

Confirmed meeting dates for June 26; July 17; and September 18; there will be no August meeting. Any committee member who anticipates being absent from a meeting are asked alert other committee members by email.

3. Mission, Vision Statements and Objectives (Laura)

Laura shared a printed handout to define and help distinguish vision and mission statements and with notes to guide the writing of a mission statement. In discussion of the committee's vision statement, members focused on the word *restore* and the challenge of restoring to a particular point in time. Restoration of the bog to a pre-Turnpike era was discussed, particularly because invasives seem to have burgeoned since the turnpike was put through. The increased use of salt on the roadways has likely also contributed to the burgeoning of invasives. Lisa suggested focusing on the word *stewardship* and the role of the committee as stewards coordinating communication between organizations doing work in the bog. Sally said there was a strong interaction between the KBSC, the turnpike, and Tenneco previously. She also commented that we don't know *how* to restore; we don't know what it was; we don't know what has been lost from the bog. Arthur challenged: What if we do nothing? Sally concluded: Do nothing, and phragmites takes over and bog is gone.

Laura led the committee through aspects of a mission statement. The committee discussed portions of the previous committee's mission statement, particularly "proposed developments," "union of stakeholders," and "baseline environmental data." Louise proposed a cause (the who, what, where portion of the mission statement) in language taken from the 1999 Resource Management plan: "concern about degradation of the hydrologic system that supports the five rare communities" found within the ACEC. Lisa identified the top three threats to the bog: invasives (particularly phragmites), water quality, and water quantity. There was further discussion that ranged from the effect of beavers on the level of the water to a water chemistry monitoring station set up by U Mass. No one knows if it is still in use. As part

of its mission, the committee clearly aims to get a comprehensive view of what is going on in the ACEC.

There will be further discussion of the mission and vision statements in future meetings. Laura believes that this committee's vision and mission statements will be simpler than those of the previous committee.

4. Commitments from 1999 Resource Management Plan (Lisa)

Based on the commitments articulated in the 1999 plan, Lisa believes we should prioritize following up with specific organizations to find out what from those commitments those organizations have been doing since 1999. That includes TNC, The Native Plant Trust, MassWildlife, Natural Heritage: What can we do to help get information from them?

Lisa will write a draft note to The Native Plant Trust to ask whether the Native Plant Trust is still surveying for plants and what the results of their surveys have been.

Louise will follow up again with Rene Wendell at The Nature Conservancy. Kay Sadighi was going to follow up with the Boston office to find out if they had anything that could be shared with this committee. Laura will follow up with Kay S.

Sally suggested following up with someone from the ACEC organization.

5. Status of outreach and records collection

This item was discussed in connection with the 1999 Organizational Commitments, but Louise will follow up with Rene Wendell.

6. MVP Grant (Lisa)

MVP: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness; this is a state program that offers grants.

Bogs and fens are important for carbon and methane sequestration. The deadline for grant applications just passed, so this is something to be considered for next year. Lisa suggests focusing on the value of carbon or methane sequestration.

7. Rep for Justice40

This is a federal program. Stockbridge was designated as a community that is severely impacted. This program gives money to communities impacted by climate change, among other things.

Patrick White asked that we have a representative from this committee to figure out how Stockbridge might benefit.

8. Public comment

No public comment.

Sally asked that we consider what the committee would do if it had money. Laura reminded the group that \$50,000 was allocated (at the 2022 Town Meeting) for a hydrology study. Sally alluded to flooding downstream from Route 7 and the concern of homeowners in town when that flooding occurs.

9. Adjournment

Laura adjourned the meeting.

10. Link to recording of the meeting.

To find the recording of the May 22, 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=KwZdJVgSmMQ>