

Minutes, Inaugural Meeting of the Kampoosa Bog Stewardship Committee
Monday, October 24, 2022, 5 p.m.

Committee Members:

Present: Laura Beasley (initially by phone; later in person), Lisa Bozzuto, Rich Bradway, Arthur Dutil (via Zoom), Louise Gachet, Patrick White, ex-officio

Absent: John Hart

Other Attendees: Patty Caya, via Zoom

1. Approve minutes from 9/19/22 meeting.

Discussion:

Patrick White opened the meeting in Laura Beasley's absence. Lisa Bozzuto noted a correction to the minutes of the Sept. 19, 2022, meeting. Lisa moved that the amended minutes be accepted; Rich Bradway and Arthur Dutil simultaneously seconded. VOTE to approve the minutes: AYE: Lisa, Rich, Arthur, Louise. Laura was not audible via phone, so no vote from her was recorded.

2. Status of outreach and records collection

- Native Plant Trust (Lisa)
- Stockbridge Conservation Commission (Lisa)
- Lee Conservation Commission (Lisa)
- The Trustees of Reservations
- Museum and Archives, Stockbridge Library (Arthur)
- Map (Arthur)
- NHESP (Laura)
- The Nature Conservancy (Louise, Lisa)
- BNRC (Rich)
- Files in Town Offices (Rich, Arthur)

Discussion:

The Native Plant Trust (formerly the New England Wildflower Society) sent Lisa a list of native species found in the Bog. Stockbridge Conservation Commission does have records of interest to the committee; Lee ConComm does not. No one had contacted The Trustees; there was no action item from the previous meeting to make contact and request records. Arthur identified materials in the Museum and Archives of interest to the committee; Lisa and Louise also had gathered materials from here that can be shared (photocopied newspaper clippings, scanned minutes of previous Stewardship Committee meetings). Arthur has two maps from mid-1980s. The Marians' gift of conservation easement of the Bog to the Town of Stockbridge set in motion the official protection and conservation of the Bog. Map shows bounds of wetlands at the time

of the conservation easement by Kelly Granger and Parsons, surveyor, Great Barrington, Mass. Arthur will bring map to the next meeting for our files. The second map (from 1990) includes land north of the Turnpike, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, the Dutils' property, and Marsh Brook. Chris Buelow, Sr. Restoration Ecologist of NHESP, wrote to the committee, and Patrick read the letter out. NHESP has been working at the Bog, in connection with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, on issues such as invasives control, hydrology, chemical inputs, and prescribed fire. Issue: Finding contractors to carry out the invasives control is proving difficult. Laura proposes having an initial conversation with Chris Buelow. Rene Wendell, Land Steward of The Nature Conservancy, responded to Louise. There appears to be a lot of records held by TNC; some could be shared with committee. Rene Wendell may attend the next committee meeting. Rich is continuing to follow up with BNRC regarding records. Rich reviewed the files in the Town Offices; there are no documents there that the committee does not already have.

3. Storage of all records (Laura)

Discussion:

The committee does not yet know how to get access to the electronic folder we have been allocated by the Town Administrator, Michael Canales. Laura will follow up with Michael Canales.

4. Letters to expanded list of abutters (Laura)

Discussion:

Laura B. read out her draft letter to expanded list of abutters. No revisions were requested. Laura will sign the letter. Laura moved that the letter be sent to designated recipients. Rich seconded. VOTE: Unanimous. Laura will work with Michael Blay, Principal Assessor, and Michael Canales, to identify all appropriate recipients.

5. Site visit dates (Arthur)

Discussion:

Marians continue to welcome site visit. Concern expressed about using canoes or kayaks that are used in other water bodies. The possibility of a virtual visit was discussed. Rich to contact licensed drone operators. Nick Fredsall has shot footage of the Bog already. Ben Carver, photographer at *The Berkshire Eagle*, has also done similar work. Both are licensed drone operators. Rich will try to get the drone footage done before the next meeting. Arthur suggested asking Jess Toro to interpret what the footage shows. If new footage is done, Rich suggests asking Marians for consent to do. Possibility of seasonal drone flyovers discussed, which could then be archived.

6. Timing of the next meetings

Discussion:

Confirmed dates for next three meetings:

- Monday, November 21, 2022, at 5 p.m.;
- December 19, 2022, at 5 p.m.;
- January 23, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Moved January meeting to avoid conflict with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

7. Public comment / Any other business / Action Items

Discussion:

Beavers. Beaver management has sometimes created problems for property owners downhill /downstream from the Bog. This has not been so much of a problem since the installation of the beaver deceivers. Bring up this issue when John Hart attends. Laura will ask NHESP about beavers, too.

Recap and identification of ACTION ITEMS:

- Laura to follow up with Chris Buelow at NHESP; Laura will also ask about communicating with Tennessee Gas, Mass DOT; Laura will ask about beavers
- Laura will talk to Michael Canales about storage, electronic and physical, for committee documents (Rich offered some to share some filing cabinet space with The Land Trust)
- Laura will talk to Michael Canales and Michael Blay to create list of expanded abutters for the committee's letter.
- Rich will follow up with BNRC about documents and records that could be shared with the committee.
- Rich will follow up on the drone survey of the Bog.
- Rich will follow up with Jess Toro.
- Lisa will follow up with the Stockbridge ConComm about records and documents related to Kampoose Bog.
- Lisa will share with the committee scanned minutes of previous committee's meetings that she got from the Museum and Archives.
- Lisa will contact Lee Land Trust to ask about any records and documentation of interest to the committee.
- Arthur will notify Marians about the drone survey and will work with Rich about the date and time for said survey.
- Arthur will bring in maps to next meeting. They will need to be scanned or copied for all.

- Louise will scan and share photocopied newspaper articles from the Museum and Archives.

8. Adjournment

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

9. Link to recording of the meeting.

To find the recording of the October 24, 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=pUWIJeyCbVU>