

The Land Stewardship Sub-Committee

November 2, 2017, 7:00pm

Present: Katherine Johnson, Nick Fleck, Joanne McGee, Bob Pasteris, Jerry Wagner

Guests: Lisa McLaughlin (from Historical Commission), Doug Harris (tribal representative Narragansett) via Skype

Call to order 7:06

1. Historical Commission guest Lisa M. discussed archaeological and historical resources in the Town Forest, requirements that need to be met for land management, and coordination with tribal representative, Doug Harris. Currently there is no complete inventory of "Ceremonial stone landscapes". There is a movement in MA to inventory and protect these native structures. Lisa stated that she has done informal surveying and Northfield has great potential to contain many native stone structures. Doug says the purpose now is to establish a working relationship between towns, landowners, and tribes. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) starts the process. Lisa provided a copy that the Historical Commission has drafted (copy attached). However, the Conservation Commission may need a separate MOU for our purposes.

We asked about the certification process for structures. Doug stated that tribes might be able to help with the finances for surveys. Sometimes utilities may hire surveyors if doing a project in the area. The finished product is a report with maps and photos. Some other towns are engaged in this process; e.g., Wendell, MA, Hopkinton, RI. Ultimately the surveys would be submitted to the National Registry.

Bob suggested we start by surveying the area of stand 3, slated for logging, in Town Forest. Katherine suggested the Conservation Commission draft the MOU, but we will recommend that they sign one with the tribes. Doug does not represent any local tribes but is reaching out to find descendants. Lisa Hoag from Wendell Historical Commission was mentioned as a contact. We can contact Doug Harris through Lisa M. Doug Harris left the conversation at this point.

Joanne suggested we draft the MOU and let Conservation Commission finish it, Nick suggested he draft it and take it to Conservation Commission. Katherine motioned to nominate Nick to write and present draft, motion approved.

2. King Philip's Hill: Jerry states he has seen metal detector folks there. We should specify on all town land signage "No digging". We discussed planned non-invasive archaeology for KPH. We would welcome new signage as well, as tribes have objected to the language on some of the present signs (no specifics mentioned). Andrew suggested looking into CPA funds for replacing signage.

3. Town Forest boundary marking hike...planned for November 19, 10 AM
4. Approval of minutes from 10/5/2017 Katherine/Andrew approved
5. Motion to adjourn Nick/Katherine 8:40 PM