

Newton Stewardship Meeting
November 1, 2018
8:30 am
Town Hall

The meeting came to order at 8:37 a.m. with members Michael Seekamp, Theodore Pekalsky, Carolyn Pekalsky, Barbara DiBartolemeo, Trish McCarthy and Mary Marshall present.

Approval of minutes December 20, 2017 – Ms. DiBartolemeo moved to approve the December 20 minutes, second by Mr. Pekalsky with a unanimous vote.

Review of the October 20, 2018 Site Walk and completing the 2018 LChip Annual Monitoring Report.

Bolded titles are questions from the annual report.

Conservation area:

- ***Did you check the boundaries this year?*** The members reviewed that they had walked approximately 20% of the perimeter of the conservation area, observing the areas that were not protected by easements.
- Ms. Marshall presented a map of the conservation area with the areas under easement and not protected by easement denoted, which will be submitted to LChip along with the completed Annual Monitoring Report.

Farmstead area:

- ***Did you observe any modifications, renovations, maintenance or other changes to existing buildings? Yes.***
The blacksmith shop is progressing.

Ms. Marshall asked if the members has any feedback. Mr. Seekamp asked if she had spoken to Ed Batchelder. Mary reported scraping and painting was in progress. The list of items on the maintenance plan for 2018 is attached to the minutes and is quite lengthy.

It was recalled that in the past, the renovations/maintenance that was completed was not the most effective type and the wood was not sealed to preserve the wood, thereby causing the peeling of the paint.

- ***Did you observe any other issues or areas of concern? Yes***
The progress on scraping and painting has been slow largely due to the weather.
- ***Describe any actions(s) taken...with respect to any violation or encroachment.*** Employ patience

Annual Report: Mrs. Pekalsky moved to approve the annual report as reviewed; second by Ms. McCarthy with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Marshall will send the completed report to LChip, along with a copy of the marked boundary map.

Ms. Marshall reported that in discussion with Ed during the site walk, he noted he had approached the town for an abatement a couple of years ago. The Selectmen had motioned to reduce the assessment on the house, but the reduction on the assessment never happened.

Selectmen Burrill suggested they send a memo to the Town Assessor and cc: the Town Administrator reminding them the abatement has not been completed, in hopes they would move forward with the abatement.

There was consensus on this and Ms. Marshall will send the letter.

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2019:

- Mary Marshall nominated Trish McCarthy for Chair.
- Trish McCarty nominated Barbara DiBartolomeo as Vice Chair. Ms. DiBartolomeo declined.
- Ms. Marshall indicated she would serve as Vice Chair. The nominations were unanimous.

Ms. Marshall suggested the possibility of new people joining the Committee. Ms. McCarthy said there was a new member on the Conservation Commission who might be interested; she will ask.

Other

Ms. Marshall reported that on the site walk, Ed indicated he would like to replace the clapboards on the barn with wooden shingles. One of the attachments for this meeting was the portion of the easement that pertains to that. It indicates any changes would need to have written approval from the Board of Selectmen, and from LChip. Ed will need to apply to them for that permission.

Ms. Marshall asked for a consensus from the board on whether they thought Ed's suggestion was a good idea. They discussed that both clapboards and shingles were from the same time period, would be less maintenance and would not need painting. It was natural material and would be esthetically attractive. It was noted also that the front of the barn was mostly taken up by the barn door. Ms. Marshall said Ed expected to keep the front of the barn clapboards and just change the rest. It was the consensus of the board that changing from clapboards to shingles would not change the esthetics of the barn and they would be okay with the change. Ms. Marshall will contact Ed and suggest he present a proposal to the Selectmen and LChip.

Mr. Seekamp noted it was nice to see the blacksmith shop was coming along, as it was a long-time project. Ms. Marshall had suggested to Ed that a *Friends of the Farm Group* could be formed to help with the maintenance on the property, but Ed was not accepting of that idea.

Adjournment: Ms. DiBartolomeo motioned to adjourn; Mr. Seekamp seconded with a unanimous vote.

Adjourned at 9:05 am

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara White

Secretary