

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024 7:00 PM

All Remote Meeting

Members Present: Anne Mazar, Alejna Brugos, Barry Iadarola, Peter Coffin, Frank Niro, and Carolyn Barthel.

Others Present: Isabella Genova (Con Com Agent), Kevin Sylvia and Bill Dakai (NEMBA/ Volunteer Land Steward), Kurt Labutti (Volunteer Land Steward), Ticia Low (Volunteer Land Steward), Dennis?, Liz and Doug Weeks (Volunteer Land Stewards).

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM and all present introduced themselves.

1. **The Barry/Alejna motion to accept the 11/14/23 minutes of the meeting as presented was so voted unanimously.**
2. New England Mountain Biker Association (NEMBA). Anne introduced Kevin Sylvia and Bill Dakai of NEMBA. Kevin explained that NEMBA is seeking approval to clear existing trails located at the Town Forest. Bill is the steward for the town forest and a member of NEMBA. NEMBA proposes to clear existing trails with no new trails added. They will fix existing trails and create swales or “rolling grade dips” to divert and manage water runoff on the trails. NEMBA would also like to install new signage along the trails. The existing trail map was reviewed online. Alejna inquired about funding and Bill explained that it is from fundraising. April timeframe for trail repairs. Committee thanked them for their help and ask them to coordinate efforts with the Mendon Town Forest Committee.
3. Meadowbrook Woods. Anne explained that two (2) signs need to be installed at Meadowbrook Woods to delineate a border where people were walking on private property. After discussion, **the Alejna/Barry motion to authorize up to \$250.00 to be used for the signs was so voted unanimously.**
4. Mendon Hike Challenge. Anne introduced Liz. Liz explained that the Hike Challenge was well received with 26 people participating (9 from Mendon). It was decided that there would be no deadline to complete the challenge and that efforts would be made to promote the Hike Challenge for the winter/spring.
5. Inman Hill. Anne introduced Ticia Low to discuss signage at Inman Hill. Ticia proposed to the committee that all private property boundaries along Mendon’s Open Space should be surveyed, and boundary markers installed for liability reasons. Frank suggested that it would be cost prohibitive and that the private property owners should mark their own boundaries if they were concerned about liability. Anne suggested that a sign be installed at the road on Inman Hill to make people aware of boundaries. **The Alejna/Peter motion to approve the expenditure of \$125. For one (1) sign was so voted unanimously.**

6. Energy Sustainability Coordinator. Anne explained that an Energy Sustainability Coordinator is necessary to qualify for certain grant money. Isabella is interested in serving in the position. Alejna inquired about funding and timing. Anne said that there is a Green Communities grant that she would apply for to get seed funding for the position.
7. Five Year Land Use Plan. After discussion, **the Barry/Alejna motion to approve the Five-Year Land Use Plan was so voted unanimously.**
8. Municipal Aggregation Update. Carolyn updated the committee on the Municipal Aggregation and stated that the Department of Public Utilities is creating guidelines for towns.
9. **Executive Session. The Barry/Alejna motion to pause the meeting and go into Executive Session was so voted unanimously with a roll call vote. Barry/Alejna motion to come out of Executive Session was so voted unanimously with a roll call vote.**

The Barry/Frank motion to adjourn at 8:30 was so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Niro