

TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH  
Steele Farm Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ed Whitcomb at 7:34 PM at Town Hall. Attending members were Jeanne Steele Kangas, and Bruce Hager.

Minutes. The Minutes of our July 9 and August 24 meetings were adopted, after changing “November 1” to “November 15” in the latter minutes.

Barn restoration project update. Town Planner Adam Duchesneau informed us that because the barn is less than 100’ from the Wetlands District, application must be made to the ZBA for a Special Permit. The ZBA meets next on October 20<sup>th</sup>; and the contract with the vendor ends November 15<sup>th</sup>. The contractor, Kneeland Construction Corporation of Medford, MA, has started, working out the details of the specs and gathering the materials. Building Inspector Dave Lindberg may issue a building permit for the project “at risk”, to keep the project going and on schedule. It was decided that Ed would speak with Dave to get the application process started.

Management Plan follow-up. Areas for rotational mowing were discussed, as well as use of the flail mower and brush hog. Page 6 of the Plan shows brush hogging the northwest hillside, up the Hillside trail to past the Hillside trail in two sections: (1) from the road past the Hillside trail to a fork in the trail and downhill to the stonewall above the intermittent stream; and (2) from that area south to the Christmas trees. Bruce to bring to our next meeting a template plan of the two areas.

Christmas tree pruning and sale. Most of the needed pruning was done on our Volunteer Day by the six who came, and Ed completed the pruning. Bow saws will be used to cut down the trees. 10 volunteers will be needed on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM, and one or two will be asked if they can make and serve hot chocolate/coffee at the sign-up table from 9 AM to 12 noon. Jeanne will contact the Friends of Steele Farm, and send a draft text to Ed and Bruce.

AMD Company volunteers. AMD Company of Boxborough has a coordinator working with our Town Clerk to provide volunteers for outdoor work on September 29<sup>th</sup>. We have invasive vegetation such as loosestrife to be removed.

Other Old Business.

- Barn color. After discussion, ‘White Diamond’ was VOTED unanimously.
- Drainage at the farmhouse. The status of this matter was not raised; presumably the engineering drainage design is in process.
- Picnic tables. Ed researched the cost of steel frames, and found some at \$205 each plus shipping for two frames at \$145. Treated lumber for the table tops and benches would be needed and the hardware to build the tables. Estimated cost per table: \$400. Upon motion and second, it was VOTED unanimously to purchase two steel frames and

build the tables, monies to come from our revolving fund.

- Clearing brush and trees from Eastern boundary. We will begin implementing the Management Plan's recommendation of opening up the viewshed to the East by clearing the brush and trees there, exposing the old stonewall there and the abutting field of the Picnic Trust. The Selectmen will be contacted about this. Photos of the summer/fall foliage and of the winter view will be made. This project will be pursued in 2016.

New Business. None was discussed.

Next Meeting. Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00PM at Town Hall.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

*Jeanne Steele Kangas, Clerk*