

MINUTES

Lachat Oversight Committee
Town Hall Meeting Room
Feb. 5, 2013

Committee Present: Ellen McCormick, Judy Saffan, Nick Bell, Amy Kalafa, Paul Deysenroth, Carol Baldwin (on speakerphone)

Guests: Michelle Fracasso, Landscape Architect Silvia Erskine, Architect Robert Hatch; Margaret Wirtenberg, acting secretary.

The meeting came to order at 7:41pm.

Minutes of Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 2012, and Jan. 8, 2013 were approved after discussion: Paul Deysenroth moved, Amy Kalafa seconded, approval of these. Unanimous (with Michelle abstaining because she had not been a member of the Committee at the time of these meetings).

DISCUSSION OF LANDSCAPING, FARMHOUSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

Landscape Architect Erskine reported on three different versions for meeting standards of access, parking and landscaping features, the latest version from 1-28-13. This work took place under the strictures of a grant for historic preservation.

The first, from 11-27-12, while approved by the Committee, had, thru further study, been refined to accommodate a plan which will serve to keep options open at the Farm. It would appear that eventual removal of some non-historic structures may take place as later action to implement the as yet not officially undertaken Master Plan goes ahead.

After discussion, the Committee voted (Nick Bell moved, Paul Deysenroth seconded - Carol and Ellen voting yes along with Nick and Paul) unanimously (4-0 - one abstention) in favor of adopting the 1-28-13 alternative as the official Step One of the Master Plan for the Town of Weston's part of the Lachat Property.

MASTER PLAN FOR THE LACHAT PROPERTY

Using the materials still relevant from a previous Master Planning exercise for the entire Lachat property, it would be possible to develop a new plan to respect the Mission Statement for this Committee. In addition, the Committee discussed what exactly a "Master Plan" for the property would include.

- First step...to develop a vision for the property
- Site Analysis - opportunities and constraints (based upon soils, etc.)
- A2 survey locating buildings.
- Phasing of the Plan and funding sources/other financing to implement proposals

Excellent working documents already produced by a subcommittee of LOC were reviewed, and a long list of ideas from the community were introduced. Discussion below:

Tempered by the strictures of the legal agreements severing the working Partnership with the Nature Conservancy, nonetheless, many opportunities for community use were suggested. Contact Nature Conservancy.

Limitations of irrigation for farming uses was suggested as something to be explored. Involving Weston Middle School and High School level student in farming was another. Community garden. Greenhouse?

And with the understanding that it still does snow in Weston, cross-country skiing trails might be developed.

Flower beds and growing food are in the future, with the understanding that protection against deer would have to be considered. Farm pond used for skating was another idea.

What would the cost of a Master Plan be?

Can the views from the road of Lachat Property lands be preserved?

Animals on the farm - goats to help clear the upper field?

Make it a point not to clear away useable features until funding is in place to replace them (i.e. tool shed).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Wirtenberg, Acting Sec'y