

Geneva Lake Conservancy Land Management Committee Meeting
Minutes of the Land Management Committee
Thursday, April 18th, 2024
1:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Land Management Committee of the Geneva Lake Conservancy, Inc. took place on Thursday, April 18th, 2024. In attendance were Mr. Diamond and Mr. Johnson. Staff present were Ms. They acting as Secretary, and Ms. Yancey, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. Welcome (Steve Diamond)
II. GLC FOL Properties List

Mr. Diamond first asked what the objective of our properties is and if it is to keep them from further deteriorating or restoring. Ms. Yancey stated that the goal as a conservation organization is to restore the property to what it looked like during pre-European settlement. Ms. Yancey brought up the example of The Nature Conservancy project where many pines were cut next door to the Friedmans, and they were very upset by that occurrence. She then went on to state that it is to improve the ecological health of the property and remove invasive species. Mr. Johnson discussed the evolution of prairies along with bur oaks and their resistance to fire. He then discussed the climax of the maple and hardwood forests and the state of what landscapes used to be. Mr. Johnson then stated that oak savanna is where there are less trees, and prairie surrounding and scattered throughout. An oak woodland is where trees are further apart, and an oak forest is where they are closer together. He then went on to explain that if oaks have horizontal branching that they grew in prairie, but if the branching is vertical, they grew in a woodland. Ms. Yancey gave the example of the oak savanna we planted over at White River County Park. She explained that farmland has an impact on drainage, and that the changes that have occurred to our landscapes have made wetland disappear. She explained that we have worked with Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever in the past on projects. She then stated that Invasive species removal creates better wildlife habitat, and also more trees absorbs the carbon. Mr. Diamond asked about volunteer workdays and how many we have done. Ms. Yancey brought up the Hillmoor workdays. Ms. Yancey then asked if the Land Protection Committee should take on encroachments and violations, or if should go to the Land Management Committee. Mr. Diamond stated that we should feel our way around before making any final decisions.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that he would like to tour our FOL properties and walk them with our new employee Jaden. Mr. Diamond mentioned he has been on some monitoring's in the past. Mr. Johnson stated that it would be helpful to visit the properties with a staff member to make suggestions. Ms. Yancey discussed herbicide treatment after our workdays and the logistics of it. Ms. Yancey asked if we want to go into more of a restoration direction rather than more land acquisition and the need for deciding that. She also mentioned that Mr. Grey, who is part of the Lake Ivanhoe community might be a potential new Board Member and could maybe serve on this committee.

Mr. Johnson brought up planting of smaller oak trees will be a better use of our funds. He stated they grow about 1 inch per year. Mr. Diamond asked that we clarify the acronyms used. Ms.

Yancey explained the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) Grant that we are enrolling our Bromley Woods Preserve in. She went over the timeframe and financial needs for that grant. Mr. Diamond asked that the FOL (Fee Owned Land) list be updated with the new information requested for the next meeting. It was also discussed to meet again on June 20th at 9:30am once Jaden has started, then plan the property tours after that.

III. 2023 vs. 2024 property budgets

Mr. Diamond asked how we determine our spending, which Ms. Yancey mentioned the Zabler example with our CRP contract, and how we have Mr. Haubrich personally funding the wetland restoration for the property. Mr. Diamond asked that Ms. Theys clarify on the FOL summary where we are getting funding sources for each property.

IV. Contractors GLC Uses

Ms. Theys mentioned she had put together the list for the committees review.

V. Land Management Committee onboarding

It was mentioned that Mr. Diamond will try to get more people to join the committee, and that he will reach out to Ms. Constable.

VI. Other Issues

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm.