

**Extracts from meeting minutes from 1972 through 2004 having to do with the Land Use Committee and the land. “No promises that this is complete; just from a scan of the minutes.” This is a combination of 2 documents: notes 1972-1978 compiled by Roger Conant (RC in italicized notes below), and another (anonymous) compilation that covers 1973-2004.**

1972.10.11.08. Trevor Robinson, convenor of the committee to study purchase of Ethel Dubois' property, reported on the status of the land purchase. The Robert Archers have agreed to purchase Ethel's house and lot and a portion of the woodland at the back south of the dirt road, leaving approximately 107 acres available for purchase by the Meeting for \$29,000. Curtis Johnson suggested that we have an agreement with the Archers about the use of the bridge and about sharing the maintenance of the bridge and the road. The committee suggests that the Meeting proceed to work out the details of a plan to purchase this property. Philip Woodbridge, Curtis Johnson and Robert Archer would go to Attorney Philip Ball on Friday.

1973.01.10.06. John Zahradnik requested information with regard to the land purchase, which was supplied by the clerk and other Friends. The purchase will cost approximately \$19,700 and will be paid in five annual installments of \$5940 plus interest on the total remainder at 5 and 3/4 per cent beginning with a payment due December 20, 1973.

*(RC's Note: 5 times \$5940 equals \$29,700 so it appears that the figure of \$19,700 in this minute is a typo and is off by \$10,000.)*

1973.01.10.07. Curtis Johnson reported on the passing of papers concerning the land purchase from Ethel Dubois, stating that there are still some minor adjustments to be made with the Archers, both as to acreage and money, when the survey can be completed in the spring. Curtis Johnson explained some of the land outlines, and answered questions from several Friends.

1973.01.10.08. John Zahradnik asked that an arrangement be sought for joint management and development of the water supply with the Archers, through an amendment to the deed, filed as an easement in the county registry of deeds. Friends approved.

1973.01.10.22. Laura Robinson proposed that some of the newly-acquired land be put into Conservancy Restriction. This will be discussed at a later Meeting for Business.

1973.03.20.09. The Land-Use Committee has submitted a written working-paper for the Meeting's consideration, not for action or judgment at this time.

Friends approved of taking an item of \$30 from the savings account to form a budget for the Land-Use Committee.

Several Friends spoke to the questions of conserving the land in a wild state, of practicing good "husbandry" on it, or of using it for production of food or timber.

John Zahradnik asked for consideration of goals in the use of the land. Several goals might be achieved by the division of the land into wild areas and areas for productive use, so that research could be done on both kinds of land use.

Clerk said that Allen Page's presentation had made us aware that the moral issues involved in land-use questions were much more complex than we had thought.

*(RC's note: I wish we could find that presentation, if it is in print.)*

1973.06.13.13. A budget of \$10,037 was approved. In addition an item of \$7710 was approved for the Dubois land purchase this year.

*Note: It appears that for a time the Long Plain Nature Center continued to use the land, as mentioned in a few minutes including this one:*

1973.10.10.10. Robert Archer reported that the Long Plain Nature Center had operated three very successful two-week camp sessions of about twenty children each this summer, under the direction of Gordon Schimmel. Nancy Archer said that the teen-age counselors, among them Michele Archer and Joseph Holmes, had had an experience equally valuable to that of the children. The pond and the meeting land were used extensively.

1973.11.14.11. ...Thomas Hancock informed the Meeting that the recently purchased property consists of 104.8 acres, is assessed at \$4000 by the town of Leverett and that the tax rate of 96 dollars per thousand would bring the tax to \$344 this year. ...

1973.12.12.08. Thomas Hancock made a report on the history of the 50-foot strip of land between the original meeting property and the Raskowitz' line, and asked that the Meeting consider several alternatives for settlement of this strip of property. Tom has not succeeded in convening the trustees to discuss this question and wishes the meeting to take action.. Meeting asked Tom to continue his efforts to convene the trustees so that they may make recommendations to the Meeting on this matter.

1974.01.27.12. Thomas Hancock expressed a concern that some of the land to the south of the Meetinghouse be plowed and cultivated. Meeting approved in principle of that activity and asked that the Land-Use Committee make specific recommendations about it.

1974.04.28.07. Clerk read excerpts from the report of the Land-use Committee and stated that a further report will be made. The Land-use Committee suggested that the care of the land around the meetinghouse be included among the responsibilities of the Land-use Committee. Meeting approved.

1974.04.28.08. Clerk reported that a previously-discussed parcel of land is in the process of being deeded to the Raskovitz family.

1974.06.09.15. Meeting asked the Land-Use Committee to investigate possibilities for land management and conservation easements on our land.

1974.06.09.17. Meeting agreed to let John Zahradnik take the hay from Meeting land this side of the brook.

1974.08.25.13. Tom Hancock gave the report for the Land Use Committee (copy attached). He also reported that he was chosen Clerk of the committee, and that Tom Hancock III and John Zahradnikd became members. In addition, he nominated Jeff Wood as a new member of the committee; Meeting approved.

*(RC: perhaps this and other attachments could be found in the paper minutes at MtToby.)*

1974.11.21.11. Thomas Hancock reported on a letter from the Leverett Board of Assessors stating that they find no grounds for tax abatement in the information they have on our newly-acquired land. The letter was referred to the Land Use Committee to initiate appropriate action and investigation, along with the Trustees.

1974.12.29.06. Treasurer's Report was accepted as read (see attached). We have received somewhat over half of the Meeting's budget during the first 6 months of the fiscal year, but

many of the larger contributors have already made their annual contributions. There is still a great need for contributions, especially to the Land Trust Fund. A suggestion was made that the Land Use Committee hasten consideration of limited lumbering on Meeting land, the income to be used to help meet the land payments.

1975.03.23.08. Tom Hancock, Clerk of the Land Use Committee, began a discussion of what might be done with Meeting land by presenting his personal feelings about the use of the 108 acres purchased from Ethel Dubois. He spoke about preserving the land in its natural state, and expressed the need for a Christian ethic concerning the environment: giving respect to the "other than human." A number of questions were raised and opinions voiced. A sample of these are summarized below.

John Foster suggested that Meeting consider why we originally agreed to buy the land from Ethel, and is develop our Land Use plan in accordance with those original goals. Becky Holmes said that Ethel's goal was to care for the land and to prevent development. Meeting purchased the land both to show its concern for Ethel, who feared development, and to maintain it in a conservationist spirit.

Laura Robinson thanked Tom Hancock for expressing his personal feelings and for his eloquence. She agreed that the land should be conserved, but wondered how this could best be accomplished. Alan Page spoke about the "Life and death struggle" that constantly occurs in the forest. He mentioned that in land left to nature only 200 or 50,000 original small trees per acre survive to grow to full maturity. Under some conditions, managed land can benefit wild life more than can unmanaged land, as learned in some areas by the Audubon Society. Trees will be healthier if some unhealthy or unwanted trees are cut out of a maturing forest.

Bruce Hawkins discussed man as part of nature. We asked what does "ethical responsibility" mean in relation to land use. He would like us to look again at the cut-over land on the Archer property. Curtis Johnson reported that his land has been helped rather than hurt by selective tree cutting. He suggested that if trees were cut on our own land we could save the lumber for possible later use in construction of a tractor shed or an addition to the Meetinghouse.

Alan Page was asked to explain the meaning of the term "succession" he had used to describe natural phenomena in the woods. He said that all sorts of natural events destroy trees: devastating hurricanes which level forests about once every fifty years, fires, and other phenomena. Succession refers to the succession of plants and trees which will seed and grow up in an unmanaged forest following this natural destruction. He believes that economics should be a consideration in land use.

Jeff Keith expressed uneasiness about the use of words such as "harvesting" and other utilitarian language about our forest. Laura Robinson expressed herself in favor of a conservancy restriction on the land. Claire Van Peski suggested that conservancy is vital. She pointed out that a conservancy restriction does not rule out land management, though, but may even necessitate management on behalf of proper conservation.

John Foster suggested that Meeting look further into the provisions of the Conservation restriction Act. He asked whether we should define different categories of our land; not all parts need be considered under restriction. Trevor Robinson quoted John Zahradnik (who was absent), who felt that it may be presumptuous for us to put restrictions in 1975 which would tie up the use of the land of our descendants in 2000 or later. (*Probably meant 2000 or later.*)

Tom Hancock pointed out that land under a conservancy restriction can be removed from this restriction at any time, and that such a restriction does not preclude the present management of the land.

The discussion then turned to the flat acreage near the Meetinghouse. Should it be used for gardening? And, if so, how? After additional discussion, the Land Use Committee was asked to propose guidelines for gardening and for plowing the land to ready it for gardening; they were also asked to consider who should pay for plowing.

Regarding the forest portion, the Land Use Committee was asked to draw up a specific proposal applying for a "conservation restriction" and to report by the May Meeting for Business.

1975.04.25.18. A report was received from the Land Use Committee. Plans have been made for gardening organically in accord with the directions discussed at the previous Monthly Meeting.

1975.06.01.16. Land Use Committee reported progress in writing a proposal to put Meeting land under a conservation restriction.

1975.11.21.16. Treasurer, John Foster, asked permission for the meeting to borrow money from Greenfield Preparative Meeting to make up the difference between contributions and the amount of the payment to Ethel Dubois for the land. Meeting approved.

1976.04.16.13. Thomas Hancock reported for Land Use Committee (see attached). Work Day will follow Fellowship Lunch on April 25th. The cost of raising one acre of corn for Church World Service should be less than \$100 and Dick Ulin will complete a study of ways and means. Meeting approved Land Use making a full study of available labor for seeding, hoeing and harvesting to see how much land we can realistically care for before having it plowed. Land Use is encouraged to use only organic fertilizers and not herbicides. Dick Ulin offered to place a separate offering box for donations for this project.

1976.07.16.05. Terry Havens reported for Land Use Committee, which asked for Meeting approval for 1 and 4 of the following:

1. Authority to restore our land to the condition it was when we bought it, meaning the trails, roads, etc.

2. Authority to construct a shelter.

3. Authority to undertake moderate, ecologically-sound, pruning practices.

4. To call a special business meeting to be held in our woods, on Sept. 26th. Hugh

Borton reminded Friends that it is not always easy to hear in an open place. Marjorie Hancock spoke of the desirability of having a person from Leverett on the committee who would have knowledge of regulations such as those re constructing a shelter.

The Meeting approved 1 and 4, no action being requested on 2 and 3.

1976.09.17.06. Clerk reported that the Land Use Committee reports that the committee is not ready to make a report at this time or at a special called Meeting for Business. They propose to have a hike over our land with all interested Friends and attenders, weather permitting, with a meeting afterwards to discuss land use. This will be held on 9th Month 26th, weather permitting.

1977.01.21.05. Friends read the report of the Land Use Committee (attached) concerning a proposal for applying for a conservation restriction for our land.

a) Meeting accepted the report of the committee and asked the committee to draw up a conservancy restriction along the lines of their report and the legal provisions of conservancy restriction. When such a restriction has been prepared and the Leverett Conservation Commission has been consulted on various details, Meeting will consider approving the restriction in its final form. The committee was asked to provide copies of the document beforehand so that we may read it at leisure.

Meeting wished to note that the possible tax advantages of a conservation restriction are not the sole reason for our seeking a restriction. We also desire to preserve the Meeting's land in its natural beauty.

b) Meeting approved appointing a special Meeting for Business in 5th Month on land use. Item 1 of the committee report, dealing with timber harvesting, as well as other possible uses of the land, will be discussed at that meeting. Meeting asked the committee to see that members and attenders have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about our land before the special Meeting. The committee and the clerk will appoint the date of this meeting.

1977.05.06.23. The Land Use Committee report was distributed which explained why they were not calling a special meeting at this time. It is to be read and considered at the regular May Meeting. *(RC: but I don't find anything in the May 20 meeting about it.)*

1977.06.17.24. Curtis Johnson for Land Use Committee presented a cost estimate of \$1193.67 on building a proposed garage at the far end and to the left of the parking lot. Attached. It was reported that the tractor had been sold for \$1600 and some of this will go to buy a newer, smaller one, but some could go to pay costs of the garage, plus some money available in the Well-Roof-Shed fund. After clarification of need, urgency, and long term plans, Meeting approved going ahead.

1977.12.16.07. Bob Archer reported . . .that a week ago we made our last payment to Ethel Dubois for the Meeting land.

From June 1 to December 10, Meeting has had an income of \$11,835 as follows:

regular contributions	\$6495
meetinghouse use payments	1140
special land purchase conts.	2200
Helen Griffith bequest	<u>2000</u>
	\$11835

*(RC: land purchase conts. (??) seem to have brought in \$2200. No explanation of what a "cont." is.*

1978.04.21.11. Land Use Committee distributed copies (attached) of their forest management recommendations. These will be discussed next month.

1978.05.19.09. Meeting approved the proposal to selectively cut the trees on 38 acres of Meeting land as suggested in the Land Use Committee report (attached).

1978.11.10.08. Land Use Committee reported that they needed someone authorized to sign a contract with whatever group does the lumber harvesting on Meeting land. There was some confusion over whether it was Monthly Meeting or the Trustees who were legally needed to authorize such a transaction -- this will be looked into. If it turns out that it is the Meeting that has this authority, we approved Page Bancroft to do the signing.

Land Use further reported that some of the timber to be cut cannot be taken out the back way, so that if it is to be harvested we will need to put in an access road. This road could either be built on the old logging road which now leads to Rabbit Hollow, or it could be built parallel to this road, closer to the swamp. It was felt that more advance warning to the rest of Meeting would be desirable before taking final action on this, so the final decision will be made at December Monthly Meeting. In the meantime, Land Use Committee is authorized to sell off the timber in the portion of the lot which can be taken out the back way. Over the next month Land Use will sponsor a couple of walks along the proposed sites for the road for any Meeting members who would like to go.

1978.12.08.11. Meeting approved having the existing Rabbit Hollow Road altered so that lumber trucks can travel over it. Whatever lumber company gets the contract to cut the trees will be asked as part of their contract to rebuild the bridge over the brook in a manner acceptable to the Archers.

Discussion took place on ways the Meeting might be able to salvage the tops of the cut trees for cordwood. No decision was reached on a way of doing this.

Meeting expressed strong appreciation to Karl Davies and the rest of the Land Use Committee for all the work they have put into this project.

Meetinghouse Committee is asked to look into possible ways of using the income from the sale of this timber to invest in alternative energy technologies around the meetinghouse.

1979.02.23.08. We have received, through a realtor, an inquiry from a local Jewish group interested in purchasing an acre of our land for use as a burial ground. We will think about this further. No strong support for the idea was expressed, though some discomfort was expressed with the fact that we do not seem to be using our land.

1979.03.25.06. Land Use Committee invited discussion of possible uses of the flat land around the meetinghouse now that the Meeting has approved its plan for selective tree farming. It reported that Karl Davies is approaching a second person to do the cutting in a manner that accords with the Meeting's intentions and that it is considering a proposal to put in a new oak bridge to bear the weight of the truck that will need to pass there.

During discussion of the uses of our flat land, the following comments were made:

- Some Young Friends are interested in seeing the land plowed and then made available to anyone interested for garden plots.
- A letter (copy attached) from Bob, Brad, and Nancy Archer was read proposing to the Land Use Committee that the entire 3-4 acre tract between the meetinghouse and the Archers' be put back into good hay turf, and that the area be enclosed in an unobtrusive electric fence to permit sheep to graze it. *[This tract is actually about 14 acres.]*
- Whatever we do, preference ought to be given to a long-term plan for that land.
- Some members expressed approval of sheep grazing the land, fertilizing the area by manure and keeping the grass down by non-mechanical means. Sheep might be allowed to graze all the cleared land.
- Clerk reminded us of a request we have received to sell a portion of land for use as a burial ground by another religious group.
- Dick Ulin reported that over the last years of corn planting, interest had dwindled to the point that most of the cultivation was done by University students rather than our own members.

- A question was raised about how our water supply problems bear upon any future plans for cultivation of this tract.

The following minute was approved:

Meeting approves immediate fencing of the land mentioned in the letter received from the Archers for the purpose of grazing by sheep or goats. We will await a recommendation from Land Use Committee regarding the longer-term uses of flat land around the meetinghouse.

It was suggested that the next Newsletter carry a brief discussion of the proposals mentioned in business meeting.

1979.03.25.07. Another letter (copy attached) was read from Bob Archer urging the Meeting to proceed with plans to develop a shallow well, approved several years ago, to supplement the water supply from the spring that now feeds first the Archers' residence, then the meetinghouse, and finally the Archers' barn yard. Treasurer reminded us that a well fund has been accumulating for 10 years or more. A suggestion was made that we inform Day Care and ask them how the regulations under which they operate affect any new water arrangements we might make.

The following minute was approved:

Friends reconfirm authorization to Meetinghouse Committee to dig a test hole for a shallow well and to proceed to develop an additional water supply if that proves possible.

1979.05.25.14. Russell and Holly Fields, who have recently moved to this area from Bucks County, Pa., requested Meeting permission to tent on Meeting land, up near Rabbit Hollow, for the summer. Meeting approved. Land Use Committee is asked to look into any legal aspects of such a long-term campsite and report back to next monthly meeting.

1979.09.28.12. Land Use Committee proposed that Brad Archer be allowed to cut up to 1000 cedar trees (doomed to die from shading out), on our land for use as posts and that Brad be asked to pay 5% of the gross returns on this project to the Meeting. After some discuss, Meeting approved.

1979.09.28.13. We minuted our understanding that part of the land we own is to be set aside as wilderness area and the other part to be managed on behalf of the Meeting. Friends were made thoughtful about our long-term stewardship of the land and asked Land Use Committee to organize a discussion in which we might consider detailed proposals to bring back to Meeting.

1979.09.28.14. The Treasurer reported that we also own 10 acres in Sunderland for which this year we were asked to pay taxes for the first time.

1979.09.28.15. Meeting approved Land Use Committee's plan to organize a workday to prune the fruit trees along the river.

1980.06.27.14. The attached Treasurer's annual report and Finance Committee's proposed budget were distributed. Treasurer Robert Bancroft commented and answered questions. *(In fact, many lines are here in the minutes which are simply duplications of the attached report - see Library copy, if interested.)*

When asked whether any money had been received from Brad Archer from the sale of cordwood, the Treasurer said, No, he had not received any yet. The Meeting asked the Treasurer to find out

from Brad Archer whether there were any sales and to report back next month. The Meeting approved the treasurer's annual report, with appreciation for the details.

1981.03.13.13. Clerk read the annual report of the Land Use Committee from George Levinger, convener, on the committee's activities in 1980-1981. Friends approved the report and encouraged the committee to have the land classified under Chapter 61, subject to approval of Finance Committee and Trustees in collaboration with Karl Davies and Land Use Committee. (Copy attached.))

1982.04.09.16. Clerk reported that Land Use Committee has not met this past year.

Clerk asked for a substitute Clerk so that she could compose minute 15, and a substitute Recording Clerk so that Karl Davies could report on tax options for forest land. Robert Myers agreed to serve as Clerk and John Foster as Recording Clerk for the matters reported in minute 17.

1982.04.09.17. Karl Davies reported on the tax options on the forest land including the forest land use tax legislation under Chapter 768. Assessment of our forest land has gone up and our taxes will go up substantially to perhaps \$1000 per year. Under Chapter 768, taxes would go down to about \$40 per year plus an 8% severance tax amounting to about \$300 per year. Net savings would be about \$600 on taxes plus the benefits of forest management which would amount to \$3000-\$4000 per year. The meeting discussed the benefits of this step and several Friends objected to forest management on philosophical grounds. Other alternatives of reducing taxes on forest land were suggested. We requested the Land Use Committee to gather information on these alternatives and make recommendations to the meeting at our next meeting if possible.

1982.08.13.16. As a consequence of vacating portions of the old Long Plain Rd. by Franklin County Commissioners, the Meeting may receive a small parcel of land between the wall/hedgerow and the present highway.

1983.02.11.06. Ken Hoffman presented a proposal from the Land Use Committee to Monthly Meeting concerning the use of the land behind the meetinghouse.

- a. Area already used for timber harvesting (beyond the power lines) would be placed in the forest management tax category (taxed at 5% of valuation).

- b. Other forest and swamp lands would be classified as recreational land (taxed at 25% of valuation).

- c. the taxable land around the meetinghouse, now taxed as a building site, would be placed in the agricultural land use category. No action by Monthly Meeting was required this month. A formal proposal will be presented at the next Meeting for Business. Information on land use classification and restrictions will be made available by the Land Use Committee so that people in the Meeting can evaluate this proposal.

1983.03.11.08. Ken Hoffman (Land Use Committee) presented the recommendations of the Committee for the use of the land behind the meetinghouse. As discussed at the previous Meeting for Business (Minute 6, Second Month 11, 1983). land north and east of the power lines and already used for timber harvesting would be placed in a forestry classification and taxed at 5% of its assessed value. The woodland and swamp west of the power line would be classified as recreational land and taxed at 25% of valuation. The property adjacent to the tax-exempt three acres of land around the meeting house, currently used for pasture, would be placed in an agricultural use category. It was explained that penalties, composed of the taxes exempted in previous years, would result if the land use were changed in subsequent years. Meeting approve



this proposal and directs the Land Use Committee to apply for these classifications this year and in years following.

1987.05.07.04. We record the death of Ethel Dubois on April 7, 1987 at Kendall at Longwood retirement village in Kennett Sq., Pa. She was 80. While in Leverett she was a member of Mt. Toby Meeting. She gave the land on which the meetinghouse now stands. When she went to Kendall, she transferred her membership to the Hockessin Monthly Meeting nearby. For many years "Dubie" served on our First Day School Committee, and as a teacher of the primary group.

1983.10.28.11. Karl Davies reports for the Land Use Committee on land tax assessment under state Law, Chapter 61 (forest land), 61A (farmland), and 61B (recreational land.) Effective July 1, 1984, 15 acres now sheep pasture will be assessed under Ch. 61A (farmland), and 47€ acres south and west of the power line will be assessed under Ch. 61B (recreational land). Forty acres of forest will be put under Ch. 61 (forest land) next year.

We very much appreciate the work of the Committee and Karl Davies in the accomplishment of this task. The report and map are attached to these minutes.

1984.01.22.05. Clerk reads a letter (copy attached) from Bob and Nancy Archer proposing a transfer of property to them from the Meeting so that they would own the land containing the spring which supplies water to their farm and the pipeline which carries water from the spring to the Meetinghouse. The principal Meetinghouse water supply now comes from a new well nearer the Meetinghouse. The proposed transfer would include about 19€ acres of cleared land, woodland, and swamp; it would reduce the Meeting's holdings from 112 acres to 93 acres, and increase the Archers' land from 35 acres to 55 acres (numbers approximate). The letter is referred to the Land Use Committee for study and recommendations, with the suggestion that the Meetinghouse Committee be consulted.

1984.05.24.06. George Levinger reports the recommendations of the Land Use Committee on the request by the Archers to buy a section of land bordering on their farm property at the southern edge of the Meeting property to improve control of the water supply. He reads a new letter from the Archers, dated May 18, 1984, proposing several changes from their original request of December 21, 1983. The Committee is asked to post a map of the area on the bulletin board so Meeting members can see the area under discussion. Meeting expresses comfort with the proposal in principle and asks the Land Use Committee to proceed with arranging the details, and to report back to meeting for business in the fall.

1984.06.22.26. Clerks have received a call from Chris Ryan, a volunteer with the Amherst Conservation Commission. They are laying out the Robert Frost Trail, which will start at the Holyoke Range and continue north, using Conservation Commission land. They would like to extend the trail another 5 miles, to the top of Mt. Toby; to do this they will need to use trails crossing land belonging to the Archers, the Meeting, and Cows Lumber. Mt. Toby's existing trail is the straightest available, and in the best condition; it has orange blazes, and some evidence of use for horseback riding, but no washing out or likelihood of any. The Archers have said they will give permission if the Meeting will; no trouble is expected with Cows. The Commission will enforce any restrictions we wish to make and will get volunteers when or if maintenance is needed. No recreational vehicles will be allowed on any part of the trail.

We feel comfortable with this use of our land, and refer this request to the Land Use Committee and ask it to make recommendations to Monthly Meeting. A concern is raised about the Meeting's liability.

1988.10.06.10. Archer house sale; water supply implications: Bob Archer reported offering the house to the trustees at a stated price; they did not wish to make an offer. Concern has been expressed for the Meeting spring water supply, since it passes through the house after being conducted down the hill by a lead pipe. This supply is no longer used routinely by the Meeting which has a shallow well. Archers continue to use the spring but draw their drinking water from the Meeting supply because of concern over lead.

The trustees appointed a water committee, which recommends a trench from the spring with two new plastic pipes and two reservoirs, with the Meeting giving up its easement for the supply to pass through the house. The house would retain its right to water from the spring (which is on Meeting land). The cost of \$6000 to \$9500 (three bids have been received) would be shared. We do not know whether this can still be done this fall.

1988.10.06.11. Possible gas pipeline nearby: John Foster spoke concerning a letter received by the Meeting from the Algonquin Gas Transmission Company asking permission for preliminary archaeological and surveying studies of a route for a 42" gas pipeline through the right of way of the high tension electrical transmission line. The Fosters decided not to give the permission for their own land, being concerned about the danger of explosion from a pipeline 200' from their house. Such explosions have happened. The closest approach to the meetinghouse is considerably more than that.

Friends spoke to the environmental advantages of natural gas which contributes less to the greenhouse effect than other fuels (especially if the gas is otherwise being burned as waste) and reluctance to join the "not in my backyard" folks. Others expressed concern over safety, the effects of blasting, and the effect upon wetlands, as well as the effects of the survey itself, which includes the digging of occasional 2' x 2' holes. They approved asking Land Use Committee for a report in Eleventh Month recommending action.

1988.11.03.09. Land-Use Gas Line Survey: Bob Archer reported that Land Use Committee recommends allowing the gas company to go ahead with their proposal to test Meeting land for a possible gas line near the power line. Meeting approved.

1988.12.01.10. New Water Line: Bob Archer reported that the work of replacing the water line has begun and is expected to be finished in 3 or 4 days. In response to questions, he reminded us that this will protect the purity of the water supply by getting rid of the lead pipes. He also reported on a minor land trade to improve the Meeting access to the back land.

Alice Swift reminded us of the need for pledges to pay for the Meeting's share of the cost. Two pledges of \$300 and \$600 have been received, leaving a need for \$2,100.

**1993.03.18.11. Land Use Committee:** Clerk reported that a letter (attached) has been received informing us as required by law that tree cutting will occur on the Archer's land abutting ours.

1994.05.19.05. Land Use Committee

Karl Davies presents a draft of a proposed Forest Stewardship Plan under the Chapter 61 Forest Tax Program. Meeting approved This plan covers our entire property instead of just our forest land. The final plan will be considered for approval at our June Business Meeting. Friends should look over the plan before then. Copies can be made available to others and this is to be announced after Meeting For Worship.

1994.06.16.03. Land Use Plan: Karl Davies reported.

The proposed Land Use Plan (attached) was reviewed. The 10 year plan is being submitted under the new Stewardship Program which is co-sponsored by the state and federal governments to promote land management with consideration for wood production, recreational use and wildlife habitat creation/preservation. Expected proceeds from timber and cordwood sales is \$4,000 over the 10 years of the plan. Friends approved the plan with one technical correction. Friends expressed appreciation to Karl for his work and expertise.

2001.01.14.09) The Land Use Committee reported that bids for the bridge are coming in very high (\$5000-\$7000.) Karl Davies reported that as part of our long-term Chapter 61 forest management plan, trees on our land (mostly hemlock) will be sold under contract to attain a better balance of tree species. The sale will be expected to gross about \$3000 and will result in a temporary bridge built by the contractor. A question which was raised about the legality of the bridge was referred to the Committee. We expressed our gratitude to Karl for his oversight and expertise of this long-term stewardship of our land. (Ref: minute 5c, 4/9/2000.)

2003.09.14.8. Based on a recommendation from Karl Davies, the Land Use Committee requests \$300 from the Timber Fund for the pruning of three acres of trees that will eventually be harvested (\$100/acre). Doug Hutcheson has agreed to do this pruning. We ask for an update on the extent of lands planned for timber harvesting, especially those south of the power lines. We defer consideration of the recommendation.

2004.05.09. 5. Doug Hutcheson reports for the Land Use Committee on the new Forest Management Plan (attached), which maintains our Chapter 61 land classification for another ten years (see Minute #3, 6/16/94). He notes that the new plan allows for the possibility of some thinning of the 40-45 acres designated for timber management toward the end of the ten-year period. We approve the plan as presented by the committee. We authorize Trustees to finalize the plan in consultation with the Land Use Committee and with Mike Mauri of Deerfield (the licensed forester who will sign off on the plan) and submit it to the state by the June 30 deadline. We thank the committee for their labors in updating the plan that Karl Davies first drafted.