

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING --approved 4/12/2011

March 08, 2011

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Ron Kusner, Marc Sevigny, Phil Knoetner, Pam Durrant

Members not Present: Bob Benson, George Watkins

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. in the Old Library

- Minutes of previous meeting revised and unanimously approved
- Holy Hill Brush Burn discussed. Primary Date of March 26 chosen with March 27 or April 3rd chosen as alternates. Starter logs will be brought by Phil and Marc. People should bring rakes, gloves. Marc to bring marshmallows, and tractor. Mark will contact Fire Chief for approval. Marc will put in newspaper notice and advertise. Marc will contact neighborhood people for volunteers. Phil will ask Sue Toll to spread the word as well.
- Wendy mentioned the ConCom's desire to get involved with invasive species management. Is considering using some of its budget to control invasives. The Hermann Orchard may be one good candidate. Trees are "nurse plants" for other invasives. Up to \$50K available for some project(s).
- Spring Work days: regional coordinators should be reporting on their trail conditions and engaging help (from the committee and from abutters) for managing their trails.
- Some more informal discussion on trail blazing strategies. Plastic versus paint? Need to come up with guidelines for consistency.
- There was a discussion about formalizing the trail use Rules and Regulations. Suggested to put the "short list" on the web site, and the very short list posted at significant trail heads.
- It was suggested that a future meeting could discuss regulations for winter use by snowmobiles. We briefly talked about the SAM (Snowmobile Association of Mass) web site and Harvard's affiliation and the implications. Now that Harvard is affiliated, other snowmobile clubs can now have access to Harvard trails. Furthermore, SAM's web forum allows for easy dissemination of details like where to park, which is already occurring. This "opening up" of Harvard's trails to a potentially much greater population of users is causing concern.
- Next meeting to be held on April 12 at 7:15 P.M in the old Library

- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.