

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 6, 2011

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

Members not Present: Phil Knoettner, Bob Benson, George Watkins

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. in the Hildreth House living room

Minutes from the preceding meeting were approved.

Bridge Work

On July 23rd at 10:00am, there will be a bridge-building working group with Phil who will instruct attendees on proper techniques. The Great Elms land off Murray Lane will be the recipient of the resulting boardwalk/bridge effort. DPW will drop off supplies.

Field Conditions/Observations

Murray Lane fields need mowing now. Sean B will hopefully assist. Newman (Prospect Hill) needs a new mowing steward, due to passing of prior neighborhood mower. Access is difficult, and the trail has 3' tall growth including poison ivy. Clapps/Scorgie needs mowing. Covered with black swallow-wort.

Land Management

The Abbott land has an obvious erosion problem. Friday July 15th at 3:00pm a team will examine a portion of the trail that is suffering from erosion for ideas to build water-bars (diversion channels) to allow water to drain across the trail rather than down it.

Deer Management

A discussion on a session that Wendy described for how towns are grappling with an overpopulation of deer. An info sheet was handed out that described how to identify overpopulation symptoms. Other towns are considering ideas to reduce the population including hunting on public land, and extending the hunting season.

Signage

Wendy handed out a template to be used for creation of some small signs to be affixed to trees and posts displaying trail use policies. Looking into print shops and material options aimed at longevity and visibility. Grafax offers “7-year” sign material, baked enamel might be the longest-lasting. Costs an obvious consideration. Pam will look for the original acorn to be replicated on the new signs.

Next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2011 (third Tuesday, new meeting rotation)