

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING –Approved 10/19/10

**September 21, 2010**

**Members Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Marc Sevigny, Phil Knoetner

**Members not Present:** Pam Durrant, Ron Kusner, George Watkins

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

- Minutes of previous meeting revised and unanimously approved
  - Wendy distributed hard copies of field management spreadsheet that is being used to track the different field parcels, locations, map reference, dates mowed, fee paid, and notes.
  - Pam, Jim, Phil and Wendy attended the September 20<sup>th</sup> site walk of the Holy Hill area to assess the conditions. The so-called “poison ivy (PI)” field should have some reclamation work done. It was decided to have a “work day” in the late fall.
  - It was suggested that a letter be written to the Taylor family on Babbitt Lane asking that they dismantle the tree house that is on Town land.
  - It was suggested that some work be done on the Shaker Dancing ground, clean it up, paint the fence, and thin the young trees. It was suggested that the tree warden (Chris Bilodeau) be consulted to make recommendations about tree thinning. The goal is to clean up the undesirable trees while maintaining enough of a tree canopy to discourage undergrowth.
  - Marc said that he would consider becoming a member of the snowmobile club again to maintain awareness of the club’s activities. Action item: Marc will bring the old snowmobile map to the next meeting and share with the group for reference.
  - Phil mentioned that the plastic trail markers are disappearing, which started a conversation on the pros and cons of blazes and markers.
  - A brief conversation on the pros and cons of signage at trail heads took place. The pros include public awareness, interest, and regular use, which promotes good trail maintenance. The cons include overuse, usage by non-residents, and lack of solitude.
  - A public “cleanup” of the Holy Hill fields will occur on November 13, with a late-October pre-cleanup initiated by sub-committee members Marc, Jim and Phil. The goal is to perform the higher risk chainsaw activity in a small group, then involve the public in the safer cleanup of brush and branches.
  - Marc will look into access to a brush cutter.
  - Dave Kay is working on maps that may be of interest to the group.
  - The committee will take on regulations in the winter.
  - Next meeting to be held on October 19 at 7:15 P.M.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.