

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING – approved 12/14/2010

November 16, 2010

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner, Bob Benson

Members not Present: Pam Durrant, George Watkins, Ron Kusner, Marc Sevigny

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:29 P.M. in the Old Library

- Bob Benson welcomed as a potential new associate member of the subcommittee
- Minutes of previous meeting unanimously approved
- Wendy reminded that all members need to submit their Open Meeting Law Affidavits, and take the test; she will remind members and distribute forms on-line
- Wendy indicated that there should be a specific allocation of money this year that the Land Stewardship Subcommittee will have available for projects
- Wendy indicated that Lydia Rodgers (sp?) from Concord will potentially be available to talk on tracking, for the purpose of identifying wildlife species; it would also be possible to have a public event, in late January
- Review of other Fall projects on the properties
 - o Mary Abbott Trail – the current boardwalk needs to be replaced, and an Eagle Scout candidate has proposed to take it on, but Phil knows it is a big job and will need to be dug and closely monitored, so it has not been decided yet, and the location will be examined again in the Spring
 - o Maxant Trail – the three boardwalks have been washed into Bowers Brook; Phil will decide when they should be retrieved, particularly since they will be quite heavy if wet
 - o Pin Hill – we still need to evaluate the snowmobile trail impact
 - o Holy Hill – we may want to see if the snowmobile trailhead and signage could be moved from the South Shaker Road parking lot to the ballfield on Ann Lees Road
 - o Powell – the field at the corner of East Bare Hill and Brown Roads has grown up so much that it will require major work to remove trees and invasives; we will need to determine what to do for Spring, and Wendy will organize a site walk so we can form a plan
- Divvying up Conservation Lands for on-going monitoring responsibility
 - o Wendy took Hermann Orchard, Ohlin
 - o Bob took Holy Hill
 - o Phil took Great Elms/Brehm, Williams, Tripp
 - o Jim took Pin Hill, Prospect Hill, and Old Mill
- Holy Hill 11/13 public Work Day
 - o All lauded the work done and great looking results
 - o Bob will check whether he has plastic, to cover the 3rd burn pile in fashion similar to the way the first two were covered, to keep the wood drier over the winter

- We will target a date, presumably in February but weather-dependent, for the burn
- Dancing Ground maintenance
 - Ron did the original white pine cut
 - Another individual (unidentified?) removed the cuttings
- Mapping
 - Wendy has some new contacts, from Lydia Rodgers
 - The previously defined subset of the Subcommittee will focus on this in the future
- Signage
 - Jim distributed paper copies of the compiled sign information
 - There were a number of comments which Jim will incorporate into a revised version
 - Initial feelings were that the highest priorities for repair/replacement are signs for Pin Hill, Hermann Orchard, and Black Pond/Vesenska
- Next meeting to be held on December 14th at 7:15 P.M.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.