

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 22, 2019

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Carl Sciple, Sydney Blackwell, John Lee

Not Present: Brian McClain, Jim Burns, Pam Durrant, Phil Knoettner

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. at the Hildreth House
Minutes from the 11/27/18 meeting had not been prepared and reviewed yet

Committee Membership Changes

- Wendy indicated that Phil Knoettner is resigning, looking ahead to his relocating in a few years; all expressed high regard and thanks for his commitment, leadership, dedication, and good spirits over his many-year contribution to the Land Stewardship efforts
- Sydney Blackwell will be joining officially; while she indicated she can't tackle trail maintenance, she will be making other contributions, particularly in identifying, knowing about, and recording Native American stone formations on conservation lands

Land Reports

- Willard Trail
 - John Lee has been working on it a number of times
 - John reported that he'd begun to clear and it was mostly marked with pink ribbons, though he noted that the loop hadn't been done yet
 - Wendy indicated that she'd help with additional work
 - We'd still like to make this trail the location for the Spring walk, if possible; we're looking at potential dates of 4/7 or 4/14 for the Spring walk
- Williams – Wendy and Brian cleared the trail
- Hoch – Jim Burns and Harry cleared fallen red pines on 1/9/19
- Coke – Brian to be the Trail Steward
- Thurston's Cove – Wendy to ask Jim Burns to be the Trail Steward

Smith Land

- The town completed its purchase of 13 acres on the Harvard side, with SVT having purchased 40 acres on the Littleton side
- Wendy had created the memorandum of understanding on how SVT and Harvard Conservation will work together
- We'll need some additional signage for the Harvard side; this will be a Spring project

Tick Signs

- A number were distributed to those attending, for placement on the trails that they're responsible for

Bridle Way (access to Hermann Orchards from Ayer Road)

- This still needs work

- Wendy to lead the effort, and will put out a note to ask for help

Shaker Reservoir (on east side of Shaker Road)

- This property will need a post for a sign, since entry is through a field

Trex Conservation Signs

- We have one more for which we can determine a desired location
- In addition, there is one for Hermann Orchards that will be installed once the work on Bridle Way is completed

Parking Areas

- DPW will help
- Clapp-Scorgie is a priority for Spring; this will need fill, focusing on the lower area
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary – needs grading
- Williams – needs fill, in the proper area
- Holy Hill – parking area on South Shaker Road needs clean-up and smoothing out

Bridges and Fences

- Hoch – the smaller bridge needs stringer replacement
- Holy Hill – we will be seeking Middlesex Fence's help with the post removal

Bench for Conservation Properties

- Wendy would like to get a design for a bench that we can assemble on-site
- We will also need to develop a policy, governing how many benches, their placement, honoring individuals, etc.

Deer Management Subcommittee

- They have been meeting
- They are scheduled to present to the Conservation Commission (March?)

Coyotes

- A small dog was killed by a coyote in Bolton, adding to the impetus to be better educated on dealing with them
- Wendy mentioned and recommended an article on coyotes by the Belmont Animal Control Office John Mangurianis, whom we will try to get to come and speak in Harvard

Old Mill

- The meeting agenda mentioned fallen dead ash on the trail, but Jim A believes that any blocking the trail has been removed, and needs to confirm
- Jim A will also talk to Jim B to see if the snowmobile club has removed the remaining trees on the Inner Loop that Jim A saw on 11/10/18

Annual Conference of Conservation Commissions

- Wendy mentioned that there is one upcoming; they are normally for members of the Conservation Commission itself, but Wendy indicated that LSS members could go

Upcoming meetings will be scheduled for 2/26 and 3/26

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM