

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF MEETING

**February 26, 2019**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell

**Not Present:** Carl Sciple, Jim Burns, John Lee, Jim Adelson, Pam Durrant

We did not have a quorum – so these are unofficial notes.

Preliminary OK was given for 1/22/2018 minutes.

The reconstituted Harvard Local group was discussed. Sydney and Brian have been to the first 3 meetings. At these meetings a number of projects were proposed - one of which was “land stewardship” aimed at informing/engaging citizens to care for private and public land in an environmentally friendly manner.

This led to a discussion about possible topics that could be included under “land stewardship”.

Topics mentioned:

- less grass/fertilizer in yards
- more habitat in yards
- educational garden at Powell Land
- certifiable habitat awards
- yard tours
- pollinator corridors

The first 2 MVP workshops (on agriculture) were described briefly. Of note - plant pathologist Dan Cooley discussed impacts on local agriculture due to climate change.

- high night temps will be detrimental to apples
- root rot
- temperature swings
- excessive moisture/drought

Upcoming Talks and Events

- 4/14 – Spring walk at 1:30 – most likely at Willard. Sunday before spring break and Patriots’ Day.
- 5/30 – Harvard Environmental Forum – will be a “round table” format this year. Bruce Leicher is filling in for Eric Broadbent
- 6/18 – CSL workshop by Doug Harris (on Indigenous stone structures)

Next LSS meeting will be scheduled 3/26

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM