

# HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**March 26, 2019**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant

**Not Present:** Carl Sciple, Jim Burns, John Lee

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. at the Hildreth House

We discussed the idea of organizing a tour of sites, to share what practices people have undertaken to control/remove invasives, or promote desirable/native plants, potentially looking at both conservation land and private land examples

Sydney and Pam will write a short piece for The Harvard Press on planting for pollinators (helping dwindling insect populations) in honor of Earth Day 4/22.

Potential workday in June at Powell, to distinguish invasives and remove buckthorn and narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*) and scope out planting a small pollinator garden

### Upcoming Talks and Events

- 3/28 – MRMAPPER use, at the Harvard Public Library
- 4/4 – “Tick Talk”, at the Town Hall, organized and promoted by the Board of Health
- 4/11 – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop #1; Sydney may go
- 4/22 – Earth Day, with the theme “Saving our species”; Pam and Sydney to write a short piece for The Harvard Press on planting for pollinators (helping dwindling insect populations)
- 4/25 – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop #2
- 5/30 – Harvard Annual Environmental Conference, roundtable

### Deer Management Subcommittee

- Considering a “controlled hunt,” using bow hunting
- There will be an application and screening process for hunters
- Have identified a number of conservation properties to start with; LSS would support starting with a limited subset in the first year

### Spring Walk

- To be held Sunday, 4/14 at 1:30 PM, following the route of the new Willard Trail on the Willard property
- John, Wendy, and Brian have done a lot of recent work on creating the trail
- Wendy and Jim A walked the trail 3/24, to plan and prepare for the walk
- Concom has ok'd naming the area the Willard Wildlife Sanctuary – the family likes that idea
- Wendy will try to find out more about the history of the Poitras portion of the property
- Wendy to check with Ted Maxant or his family to get permission for parking on their land, and with Doug Cregar or Judy Warner or someone else at Harvard Historical Society for parking

there, if the number of cars exceeds what can be accommodated in areas at the walk's start on Willard Lane

- Publicity
  - Jim drafted a flyer for the walk 3/25, which Wendy edited and finalized 3/26
  - Brian to place entries in NextDoor Harvard
  - Wendy to approach Harvard Conservation Trust on doing an e-mail blast to their members
  - Jim to put flyers at Harvard Public Library, the General Store, and the Post Office
  - Wendy to send the flyer to The Harvard Press

Parking Area Repair (for properties with parking lots)

- Wendy spoke with Ron Gilbert at DPW – possible time for DPW in June when other tasks lighten up
- Peter von Conta, who will be getting involved with trail stewardship for Clapp-Scorgie, will help with the parking lot improvement project

Big Night (Amphibian) Protection

- Brian has put up signs in our typical spots, where road crossings have high concentration of the animals. He has distributed signs to some individuals living near these hot spots so they can put them up each year.

Conservation Coffee

- Pam Durrant and Carl Sciple attended this 3/12 meeting of individuals interested in conservation at the General Store

Next LSS meeting will be scheduled 4/23

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM