

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 15, 2016

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner, Pam Durrant

Members not Present: Jo Ward, Jim Saalfeld, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting (1/19/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

Trail Reports

- There had been a big pine tree down on Bowers Spring, but it has been removed

On-Line Trail Status Log

- Jim A had made the changes requested at our previous meeting, and several people have put in entries in the Log
- There were requests for several additional changes, which Jim A will follow up on
 - o We decided to use red in the descriptions to indicate if there's an issue with a trail that still requires work; then when it has been resolved, the color can be changed; the instructions need to be modified to inform all users
 - o We decided not to try to put photos in the Log itself, but to store them within the Google Drive folder for LSS, with the Log containing references
 - o Jim will investigate how to save the Log periodically, so we're not vulnerable to having it wiped out inadvertently or maliciously
 - o With expanding use of the Log, it would be desirable to let the members of the chainsaw crews modify the Log when they do work, and also to allow others (such as Conservation Commission members) to have access to the Log but not allow them to edit it directly

Trail Crew Training

- We won't have a formal training session; Phil and Bob will invite people to come out with them
- We still need to plan a group session for trail crew members to work on Old Mill, where a number of trees need to be cleared; Phil will arrange this session when he returns from his travels

April Walk

- To target Great Elms – Brown, possibly extending to Williams and Ernst as well
- Potential dates considered were April 10 and April 24; the latter was judged more likely
- Wendy, Pam, and Jim to do a practice walk to plan the route on 3/20
- Expect to use NextDoor Harvard and the HCT blast e-mail as publicity vehicles

Hermann Orchards

- Half of the trees were cut down on the south side of the hill in 2015; the other half can get done when conditions permit
- Wendy has done some clearing of the access route from Ayer Rd
- Phil needs to work on the sign that will be placed on this access from Ayer Rd

- There is still some invasives work to be completed

For a future project, we'll add work on the section of Clapp-Scorgie that runs along the west side of Clapp Cove – we anticipate increased interest and use since this now connects to Willard, but it's currently very muddy

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM