

# HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**October 27, 2020**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Rob Traver, Peter von Conta, John Lee, Pam Durrant, Brian McClain

**Guests:** Adam Meier, Margaret Kusner

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM as a virtual meeting (recorded)

Minutes from the 9/22/20 meeting, as drafted by Jim A. and edited, were approved

Damage from August and October storms

- Affected a number of trails
- Brian showed pictures depicting the damage at his own home, with falling trees/branches striking both the chicken run and a car in the driveway

Chestnut Orchard update

- Jim Lee does the major mowing
- Wendy lent Brian her mower, which Brian used for the finer mowing

Trail Status Log

- Wendy added key words and consolidated entries; she also converted more entries from red, which indicates items needing trail work, to black
- Wendy also made a number of changes to the list of chainsaw volunteers and trail stewards
- Peter said he's taken to using the log, calling it "the best single depository for getting trail information"
- Jim reminded on several points
  - o You can choose your own individual notification settings, to be notified by email of changes in the status log
  - o If you plan to work on an item noted in the log, please make an entry, so another person doesn't also set out to do the same work
  - o The snowmobile club also works on the portions of the trails that are within their network, and don't record their work in this log; Wendy will put Peter in touch with the new head of snowmobile club trail work

Property/Trail Reports

- Bare Hill – markings in the field can come down now in prep for field mowing. Brian will.
- Dean's Hill – Wendy & Rob marked a yellow jacket nest; the marking can presumably be taken down now that the colder weather should have gotten rid of the nest. Rob will do.
- Williams & Great Elms – Wendy has cleared trails will need chainsaw helper to finish off. (She mentioned a yellow jacket nest still active last week near the pond.)

Adam said he's available and interested in chainsaw work – he needs orientation with Jim Burns

People expressed appreciation for the chainsaw work that Peter and John did on Clapp-Scorgie

Peter asked about whether there was any policy on how to handle leaning trees, as opposed to fallen ones; from the discussion, leaners are often difficult to take out; in addition to removing them, we can also consider flagging them if they would represent a potential hazard to trail users

Ann Lees ballfield is actually on conservation land so we'd be responsible; Wendy will draw up a memorandum of understanding with Park and Rec, for them to maintain it

#### Eagle Scout Projects

- Kiosks
  - o Peter sent out a note today to Matt the Eagle Scout; Peter feels we need to provide more guidance
  - o For the Kiosk design, we picked the 12 x 12 size, to fit 8 ½ x 11 maps
  - o Wendy suggested using special paper that lasts a long time; she said it can be used successfully on a standard printer
- Boardwalk at Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
  - o It's located at the south end, on the western leg
  - o The initial scout design wasn't going to work
  - o Brian mentioned a design that has been used at Black Pond with positive results; Brian tried to introduce this design to the scout, by sending him pictures

#### Deer Management

- This year's hunt has started, using bows
- Wendy posted the five sites, including the Willard land, which has a trail, to indicate that the hunt was underway for this year
- Brian reported that he has heard gunshots, which he thinks some hunter is using – Wendy to notify DMS

#### Invasives

- Powell (Buckthorn) – needs to be cut and painted. Wendy & Brian will work on.
- Clapp-Scorgie (Norway maples) – 12 need to be cut down. Group favors cutting as much firewood as feasible from tops and leaving brush in woods towards SSR rather than chipping.
- Shaker Rd (black locust) – 10-12 trees that we need to get rid of; Peter may be interested in getting some of the wood, and Wendy will show him the location
- Shaker Spring House (Bittersweet) – Fred Silverstein has cut it back some

Wayne has started mowing; also plans to do Holy Hill starpack

Wendy has additional blazes; Jim A said he'd get some for reblazing on certain properties

Hermann Orchard – We need to decide where to put the new sign; we planned a walk 11/15 at 1 PM to determine the location

#### Bromfield Senior Projects

- Gina Ashe, David Bernie supervising
- Wendy suggested some possible projects
  - o Clearing leaves underneath the boardwalk on Clapp-Scorgie
  - o A little bridge repair is also needed at Clapp-Scorgie

- Removing brush and blowdowns near erratics or Shaker stone walls at Holy Hill; also branch and white pine removal
- Barberry removal at Clapp-Scorgie
- Remarking the revised trail at Old Mill – Jim A may work with Gina
- Shaker Spring House – brush clearing; possibly a couple of old log bridges to repair; the Spring House itself is missing its lock, which will be reported to the Historical Commission
- Small Trail – the snowmobile group will do their work first; John to look at doing things after that

The next meeting will be a combined one for November and December, to be held December 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.