

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 21, 2016

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner

Members Not Present: Pam Durrant, Jo Ward, Bob Benson, Jim Burns

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

Minutes from the previous meeting (5/17/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

There was some discussion of various aspects of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey Results; in particular, we noted that wider trails could meet some of the concerns (ticks, PI, etc.) and talked about some trails that could be maintained with that in mind:

- Prospect Hill, from the Depot access, including Dean's Hill
- Holy Hill, from South Shaker or Ann Lees
- Tripp (though parking is tough on dangerous curve of Brown Rd.)
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (need to mow trail through old orchard)
- Harvard Park trail (Park & Rec)
- Improved trail along Rt. 2 (need to find out location, permitted uses, and let people know about it)

Trail Status Updates

- Clapp-Scorgie
 - o Phil had worked earlier that day on the muddy area on the section of trail that connects Clapp-Scorgie with Willard
 - o Since it's quite dry now, Phil wants to go back when it's raining, to see what it's like, and whether a bridge or boardwalks is the better solution for remaining issues
- Williams
 - o Wendy and Phil put in a boardwalk, as previously planned
- Stone
 - o Phil put in a sign at the crossing point between the Park & Rec trail and the Stone land
- Blomfelt
 - o Wendy had asked the Tolls whether they'd be willing to be the trail monitor for this, and they agreed
 - o From their initial survey, the trail was in reasonable shape

Trail/Chainsaw Crew

- Phil is tentatively planning a chain saw crew effort on Old Mill for the morning of July 9th
- It would be great to get more people, potentially from the chain saw group, to adopt more trails

DPW Poison Ivy Assistance

- This is most feasible for locations that are close to the road
- Identified a couple of candidates for mowing it back

- Edge of Millie's Path
- Entry to Prospect Hill from Prospect Hill Road (Newman)

Eagle Scout projects

- Wendy made the initial contact with Don Graham for this
- Help with signage would be good candidate project

Equipment

- Phil to research what's available in electric weed whackers
- Wendy to research a good (manual) bow saw for lighter-duty trimming/clearing, where a chain saw isn't required

Invasives

- Wendy met with Chris Polatin 6/16; reviewed the work done on Clapp-Scorgie and Powell and was pleased with results
- Looking at Smith Field off Turner Lane, which has black swallowwort, and working on a plan
- Also considering options for the cemetery lower field and west edge
- Looked at Powell-Abbot, which looked good; there is still a little knotweed, and little bits of swallowwort that was treated the next day there and at Murray Lane and Dean's Hill
- Analyzed the invasives work done in December at Dean's Hill; probably should do a committee walk there to plan next steps, and 7/12 at 9:30 or 10:00 AM is the tentative date

Next meeting – July 19th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM