

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 18, 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 Town Hall

Minutes from the previous meeting (9/20/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

We're looking to get additional help with the trail maintenance; perhaps Chris Frechette or Brian McLain from the chain saw crew would take a more frequent role

Phil will talk to Rich Nota of Harvard DPW, to get help with moving boardwalks currently located at Bellevue Cemetery to Willard Lane, from which point they could be carried in to span a wet section of the trail that links Willard with Clapp-Scorgie

Prospect Hill work day – Phil and Wendy will try to do a work day, potential as soon as the 10/22-23 weekend, to clear away several trees; Phil will try to get others from the chain saw crew to assist

Fall Walk

- Prospect Hill/Dean's Hill, from the Depot Road entrance
- Sunday, 11/13 at 1:00 PM
- Jim to try to generate a map for it

Weed Whacker

- Phil has been working to understand the best approach to power and charging, including levels to use while storing the equipment
- Phil is hoping to try a first usage session 10/19

There will be a walk on 10/23 at the new Sherry Rd/Gillette property

The entrance to Hermann Orchard still needs to be cleared; have been waiting until the clearing within the orchard area has been completed

Wendy reported that all the fields have been mowed. After the meeting, for these Minutes, she provided more detail, indicating that Williams, Bare Hill Sanctuary (both the old orchard and the Harvard portion of the field at Bowers Springs) and the new conservation land on Shaker Rd were all mowed on Oct 15th and this wraps up this year's mowing. We did not do a late mowing of Clapp Scorgie (both the old orchard and Turner's Lane) because they were mowed in June to suppress black swallowwort and with this year's drought did not grow back sufficiently to warrant a second mowing.

From field research, the Baltimore Checkerspot population at the Williams Land has increased dramatically, from 100 when initially counted five years ago after a particularly severe brush hogging to 1,000 to 2,000 to 4,000, falling back to 2,000 this year, perhaps because of the overcrowding plus

the drought. This is the first year of brush hogging that area since the study began and it will be interesting to see how many butterflies are found next year.

Wendy reported that a beaver has moved (probably from the Williams Pond by Murray Lane or the wetlands behind Haskell Lane) to the farm pond between the hayfields on Williams. We will see if the recent cutting of alder around the pond makes it too hard for him to make a living there.

Next meeting tentatively planned for Tuesday, 12/6; Wendy will check for room availability

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM