

Harvard Deer Management Subcommittee Minutes

Sept 25, 2019

Harvard Town Hall

645pm

In attendance: Paul Willard,
Tom Cotton, Jason Cole,
Bob Douglas, Ben Urquhart

Topics Discussed:

Jason is working on the
Harvard map with selected

parcels. He has asked David Stainbrook for a map without names so that we can add our own names to it (some of the names do not match our nomenclature). Will send hi-res copy of the map to Liz for the web site.

Tom suggested looking at “strava” heat maps, which show level of use of conservation lands, as a tool in deciding which of our

lands are least used and therefore better suited to the program.

We discussed the Stephenson/Daman land. It is land-locked, with access only through National Grid land and through a very wet wetland.

Jason suggested sending our final report to Stu Sklar, since he has expressed interest in the issue of deer

management.

Our thoughts on
conservation lands under
consideration for the
program:

- Tripp: NO (legal issues)
- Perini: YES. Park on Stow Rd, possibly use abutter land for access
- Daman/Stephenson: YES. Very good land, good access.
 - Warilla: ask BOS for permission in a future year

- Herman Orchards: NO
 - Rodriguez: YES
 - Dunlap: YES - acceptable, not the best
 - Willard/Poitras: YES
 - Barrett: YES
 - Mike at Boxborough liquor store has hunted
 - Old Mill: maybe add later.
- Few walkers, lies along train tracks

We voted to accept these six properties, with numbered preference ranking as below:

- 1) Daman/Stephenson
- 2) Willard/Poitras
- 3) Barrett
- 4) Perini
- 5) Rodriquez
- 6) Dunlap (on reserve, not recommended now)

Here is a list of requirements from ConCom for the properties in the program:

- locations should be remote, with fewer trails and low use
- communicate with abutters: write them letters, invite

them to call us if they have questions/concerns

- post signs on trail heads
- publish hours/locations of program hunting (Harvard Press, posted signs, Nextdoor) [and presumably our web site]

We discussed selection of hunters. All supported the idea of trying to fill program hunter slots with town residents, then using a lottery system to fill

remaining slots.

We discussed how many hunters to use per acre. Ben suggested 5-10 acres per hunter; Bob subsisted closer to 5 acres per hunter. We plan to ask David Stainbrook for advice on this.

We discussed holding additional forums in the lead-up to special town meeting.
Possible guest speakers:
David Stainbrook,

representatives from
Quabbin, Michele Grzenda.

Jason will revise report to
include information on the
Quabbin.

Adjourned 825pm