

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 28, 2019

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant, John Lee

Not Present: Carl Sciple, Jim Burns

Guests: Peter von Conta, Scott Winter

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting, April 23, 2019, were approved

Parking Lots

- John Lee and Peter von Conta will try to meet with Tim Kilhart, Director of the Harvard DPW on a Friday morning to review potential work to improve the parking area for Clapp-Scorgie
 - The area possibly may be moved further downhill
 - Some gravel or starpack may be used
 - There is one large, noticeable rock in the current area that will probably remain
 - Brian McClain may join, to be prepared for planning for another parking lot (Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary?)

Clapp-Scorgie

- John and Peter will look at, and potentially work on, the section of the trail going to Clapp Cove that requires annual maintenance
- There is another bridge on the property that needs work, but it is lower priority
- Major graffiti recently defaced rocks and trees at Hoskings Point
 - The graffiti is more extensive but similar in character to other defacements at Harvard Park and Pin Hill
 - This has been reported to the Harvard Police Department
 - Seems likely to be a Bromfield 2019 graduate, since 2019 was included in the graffiti, and the “artist” used the Bromfield blue and white colors
 - We have to research the best removal or reduction approach for rocks and trees; perhaps the National Parks have recommended procedures, since they must have to deal with graffiti all the time

Native American Stone Formations

- There is a meeting scheduled for June 18th, at 6:30, at Volunteers Hall at the Harvard Public Library
- Doug Harris will be the speaker
- There will be participants from historical commissions from a number of surrounding towns
- This may be conducted as a working session, using examples from Barba’s Point

Stephenson Land

- A new conservation property, adjacent to Rt 495 and the Daman Land
- There are a large number of stone formations there – “land of 500 cairns”; this brings up the question of whether, if we locate a trail on the property, we should run it by some of these stone formations or have it in a different location on the property

Wendy is investigating getting more forestry plans done

We mentioned that perhaps sometime we could get a forest ecologist speaker

Property Reports

- Willard – John Lee reported that he hasn't yet put blazes on, but that he will
- Mass Ave – A tree has fallen across the woods road used to access the property; also, Wendy and Pam will do a walk, to spur ideas for a name to use for this property
- Hermann – Wendy will want a walk there, to plan what to do on Bridle Way to improve its condition for access to the property
- Vesenska/Black Pond – The SVT-organized BioBlitz on 6/22 will include this property; a couple of sections of this trail (the loop on Vesenska and the trail to the back of Black Pond) have deteriorated significantly, though we may not be able to work on them before 6/22

Signage

- Community Gardens has asked for a sign; there is an old Conservation sign there
- We still need to put up the tick signs

Bench Prototype – Peter von Conta will take up suggesting a design

Deer Management

- A deer biologist gave a talk 5/23
- The state botanist will be speaking 6/13, upstairs at Town Hall
- There will be a Tick Talk on 6/20

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Meetings

- The final meeting will take place 5/30, prior to the Harvard Environmental Forum, which Wendy and Brian are attending

Concord has done a Sustainability Fair, showing recommended landscape practices to reduce the carbon footprint; they also have an on-line presence that is a resource

The date for the next LSS meeting was not discussed – 6/25?

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM