

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 24, 2019

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Peter von Conta, Sydney Blackwell

Not Present: Pam Durrant, Jim Burns

Guest: Bob Douglas

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

Brian worked on phragmites removal at the outflow from Bare Hill Pond, from Willow Road and at Still River Road

Property Reports

- Hoch – Jim Burns had removed trees, and he and John Lee rebuilt the small bridge leading over to the Bolton Loop Trail
- Clapp-Scorgie – Jim Burns also removed a tree there, and Peter put up a new sign at the Still River Rd entrance to the property
- Williams – Wendy reported that we need to re-position the bridge, which was displaced in the haying operation, and we need to make sure that water can flow underneath
- Bare Hill – Wendy reported a tree down, but it was easily passed, so its removal was not urgent
- Mass Ave – Sydney reported a tree down near the entrance
- Community Gardens – Wendy, Brian, and Sydney did a lot of work to remove bittersweet, and some grape, at the entrance

Jim Burns to potentially post a map in his barn of where the LSS items are

Graffiti/Paint

- Hoskings Point – much improved due to remediation effort
- Nature Trail at McCurdy – graffiti here; Brian to get in touch with Park & Rec, since it's their responsibility, and tell them about the techniques we've used
- Pin Hill – graffiti on the blue secondary trail leading down to the pond; Jim A to scout

Deer Management Subcommittee

- Bob Douglas from the subcommittee attended, with the primary purpose of getting additional input on the list of properties to propose for the initial hunt effort, which has been postponed to 2020
- All hunting will be done from stands, by hunters authorized to participate in the hunt
- Potential property list, and LSS input
 - o Perrini (off Stow Rd, near Codman Hill Rd) – LSS supported
 - o Daman/Stephenson/Warilla – (Warilla is municipal land)
 - o Hermann Orchard/Rodriguez – LSS supported Rodriguez, but recommended removing Hermann Orchard
 - o Dunlap – LSS supported

- Willard/Poitras/Sprague – LSS recommended removing Sprague, but supported the other two
- Tripp – LSS suggested potentially adding this property, though research on any restrictions on hunting needs to be done
- Mass Ave/Barrett – LSS suggested potentially adding this property; abutting private land (Ernst) is hunted
- Old Mill – LSS considered adding this property to the recommended list, but then decided against recommending it due to the lack of a large off-trail area on the property that would be best suited for hunting

Parking Areas

- Work done with DPW at Bare Hill – came out well
- Some work done at Mass Ave, but still a problem with a large pavement edge
- Peter to work with Ron Gilbert on the approach for Clapp-Scorgie

Fall Walk

- Site – Hermann Orchards, accessed (including parking) with permission from owner Sean McLaughlin
- Date – November 3rd at 1:00 PM
- Publicity
 - Draft a flyer – Jim A
 - Put up the flyer at Library, General, and Post Office – Jim A
 - Inform Harvard Press – Sydney
 - HCT e-mail blast – Wendy to check
- Preparatory trail work
 - Planning/work meeting Saturday 9/28 at 9:00 AM
 - Jim A to check with the Johnsons to see if it's OK to park at their house, since we won't have access via McLaughlin's on 9/28 the way that we will for 11/3

General points on trail maintenance

- Wendy asked that we be conscious of trying to cut back branches that protrude into the trail, to reduce chances of getting ticks on you
- We discussed that if anyone is going out to do trailwork, they can put out a note to the group for any assistance

Dancing Ground fence (Holy Hill)

- No response on recent attempts to contact Middlesex Fence to potentially do work there
- Peter is going to take a look, to assess anything he might be able to do on the fence

Bench Prototype – Wendy saw a possible bench style in Bourne; she'll look to get a picture and circulate

Next meeting – 10/22

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM