

# HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**November 26, 2019**

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

**Not Present:** Jim Burns

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the 10/22/19 meeting, as drafted by Jim A. and edited by Brian, were approved

### Chestnut Orchard Project

- Brian and Wendy went to the prospective site 11/23 and met with Jim Lee, abutter and steward of Powell land
- The discussion raised a concern about whether 10 foot spacing would be insufficient to allow Jim to use his brushhog, which is 5 feet wide, due to branches protruding into the space between trees; Brian will investigate whether a broader spacing will be better, although it will reduce the number of trees possible in a given area
- Brian plans to try to lay out as much as possible before planting in the early spring

### Snowmobile Club

- They are working on their trail network, to get ready for the winter
- There is a problem with using a shared driveway as part of their route between Littleton and Old Littleton Roads; the previous owner had allowed it, but the new owner doesn't want to; the Snowmobile Club is evaluating reroute possibilities, including going further over Fuller Dudley Woods conservation land

Scouts under supervision of Mark Shaw plan work on a new boardwalk on the Prospect Hill trail behind the transfer station, invasives removal there and water bars on the trail up to Dean's Hill.

### Trails to show on Sudbury Valley Trustees map of Black Pond/Vesenska

- Wendy recommends showing the trail that leads from the main trail to the opposite side of Black Pond, and the loop on Vesenska
- We will need to work on these trails and their markings, to have them ready by early spring; Wendy will send out a note when she goes out to work on them

Willard Trail – John Lee did additional work to finish the blazes on 11/23

### Trail impact on wildlife

- Some research suggests that human travel on trails can have effects on wildlife as much as 400 feet off the trail
- This is an issue all over the country
- Generally the number of trails should be limited to avoid impact
- If there will be a trail, it's recommended to put it on the edge of the area, rather than going through the middle, to retain larger undisturbed portions if possible

Herrman Orchard sign site – perhaps near the junction of access routes from Bridle Way and Cruft Lane

Clapp-Scorgie parking – this got worked on by DPW, though still more work may be needed

Dancing Ground Fence at Holy Hill

- A tree fell on the fence, damaging it significantly at that point
- John Lee to take a look, to evaluate damage and repair
- When it gets repaired, it should be a high-quality one, reflecting the Shaker artistry and historic importance of that fence

Great Elms access via Murray Lane easement

- A fallen tree needs to be cleared
- This should be on our list to do sometime

Deer Stands on conservation properties

- Have been spotted on Herrman and a number of other properties – these are illegal
- All identified have been tagged for removal

Clapp-Scorgie boardwalk – Wendy wants to go this weekend, but hopes to be accompanied so that others learn how to do the required seasonal work

Daman – the trail location has been planned, but work has not been done yet to construct it

The Open Space Committee is beginning to form, to start doing its work

Next meeting – there will be no meeting in December, and the next meeting is scheduled for Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM