

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 26, 2016

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner, Pam Durrant, Jo Ward, Jim Burns

Members not Present: Jim Saalfeld, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting (3/15/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

Wendy distributed a Garlic Mustard fact sheet

Spring Walk

- Held 4/10/16
- Attracted 21 people, on a beautiful sunny day
- The route started over the HCT Brown Land, crossing over to Great Elms, and then eventually to Williams for those who wanted the longest walk; options gave people the opportunity to pick the length they wanted

Beaver Approaches

- Wendy reported on work being done by the ConCom
- For about \$2,000, at Williams Pond on Stow Road, a consultant is installing a “beaver deceiver” – submerged flexible pipe that deters beavers from damming culvert openings
- A number of other locations in town are being evaluated for a similar solution

New Properties

- Case Land (off Bolton Road adjacent to Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary; Wendy distributed map) – nothing for Land Stewardship to do near-term except post the land as conservation property
- Daman Land (off Brown Road right at Bolton line; Wendy distributed map) – for those available, Wendy is leading a scouting walk there on Thursday, 4/28 at 9:30
- Barrett (off Mass Ave, adjacent to Williams) – purchase is moving along, with closing anticipated around 5/20
- Willard (off Willard Lane; Wendy distributed map)
 - o Wendy is working to get a trail easement on adjacent land to connect Willard with Clapp-Scorgie
 - o We’ll do a trail scouting walk there later this year

Trail Reports

- Wendy reported two trees down on Prospect Hill, needing chain saw clearing
- Jim Burns (or was it someone else?) reported a poplar down on the bridle path that provides access to Hermann Orchard; chain saw clearing needed here as well

Wendy indicated she's looking for someone else potentially to become the monitor for Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

On-Line Trail Status Log

- Phil had figured out successfully how to use it, and made some entries
- Jim A to add entries for the trees down on Prospect Hill and Hermann Orchards (done 4/27)
- Jim to send out a link to the Trail Status Log with the minutes (done 4/27)

Trail Crew Training

- Phil will arrange this session on Old Mill now that he's back from his travels

Invasives Project

- Work will continue at Hermann Orchard shortly if it's dry enough
- The top of Dean's Hill was treated last year, and will be cleared this year

Additional Trail Maintenance Projects

- Williams – Wendy and Phil to work on clearing/pruning
- Clapp-Scorgie – wet area west of Clapp's Cove
 - o Major water/mud problems in this section
 - o It keeps getting widened by snowmobiles
 - o We need a plan for what to do, potentially including a boardwalk; Phil and Jim Burns to try to conceive a solution
- Dunlap-Lawton Signage – Wendy to do; Pam and/or Jo may help
- Hermann Orchard – new wooden sign – Phil to do

Fall Walk

- Brief discussion of potential routes, with one possibility being Willard, and another starting at the soccer fields (on Depot Road) and continuing through Prospect Hill and Dean's Hill to Madigan Lane
- Likely to be in early November, like previous Fall walks

Butterfly Talk

- Elizabeth Crone, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Tufts University to speak
- To cover 5-6 years of research on the resurgence of the Baltimore Checkerspot at Williams
- Tentatively scheduled for September 8, 2016 at Volunteers Hall at the Library
- Wendy looking for other groups to work with to promote the talk

On-line Trail Maps

- There are a number of properties and trails that have been added since the Harvard Trails Guide was published in 2001, for which there are no published maps; partial list
 - o Hoch/Harris Lane
 - o Dean's Hill
 - o Brown
 - o Stone

- Given that the existing Harvard Trails Guide is not likely to be updated or reprinted soon, it would be nice to have maps for these trails on-line, perhaps on the HCT website where existing maps can be found

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM