

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 17, 2016

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

Members Not Present: Pam Durrant, Jim Saalfeld, Bob Benson, Jim Burns

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting (4/26/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

Trail Status Updates

- Hermann
 - o The tree that had been blocking access has been removed
 - o Because of the damp weather, the next phase of the orchard clean-up has not been started yet
- Williams
 - o Wendy reported that the “beaver deceiver” is being put in on 5/19 at the pond
 - o Butterfly research is beginning now
 - o Wendy and Phil put in a bridge between two fields there
 - o Phil and Wendy spotted about a dozen trees, almost all pines; we need to get someone (potentially Bruce Scherer) to cut them and put them in one of the pits
 - o Over time, we also need to find a way to fill other existing pits
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
 - o Some unknown helper removed two trees that had fallen down on the trail
 - o The bittersweet in the white pines has died off from the cutting and treatment
- Hoch
 - o Jim A had walked the property on 5/16, and found four trees that need to be removed; Phil to try to get one of the chainsaw volunteers to take it on
 - o The other aspects of the trail were in good shape, with less vegetation overgrowth, although it's earlier in the season than when it was overgrown at the entrance last year
- Pin Hill
 - o Jim A had walked on 5/16
 - o There is one tree that should be removed; it's reached by going on the yellow trail from the lower entrance, and proceeding just beyond where the blue trail diverges L to the pond and the snowmobile trail diverges R; this fallen tree is an easy stepover, so it's not urgent
- Prospect Hill/Dean's Hill
 - o Trees remain on this trail and still need to be removed; Jim A and Wendy will work on it

- Peter Dorward removed a large buckthorn on the side of Dean's Hill – much appreciated
- Blomfelt
 - This property does not currently have a monitor
 - Perhaps the Tolls would take it on, since they live very close by – Wendy to ask them

Trail/Chainsaw Crew

- Phil to send out a note to see if one of the chainsaw volunteers is interested in becoming the monitor for Trip or for Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

Clapp-Scorgie drainage

- Wendy and Phil had scouted the wet area connecting Clapp-Scorgie with Willard, and formulated a plan
- They recommend drainage work and some boardwalks; it will require a 16' bridge, with 4' width to provide passage for snowmobiles
- Phil agreed to lead the project
- The access possibilities for bringing in the materials include Willard Lane, or possible access with a boat coming from the Harvard town beach

Eagle Scout projects

- Jim Lee suggested that there are a number of aspiring Scouts looking for projects as part of their quest to attain the Eagle level, but didn't know who to contact to discuss it
- Jim A agreed to ask at the transfer station on 5/21, and if not successful, to call Jim Colony to ask about a contact [on 5/18, Liz Allard forwarded a message from Don Graham saying that he's the contact]
- Possible ideas for projects were mentioned, including a compost and trash receptacle at the boundary between Clapp-Scorgie and Bellevue Cemetery, where currently flower pots and vegetation get discarded

Mowing

- Field mowing will be later in the Summer
- Trailhead mowing needs to be done earlier, as trails get overgrown
- DPW handles some of these, including Millie's Path and Prospect Hill

Invasives

- Wendy spotted some multiflora rose in the unmowed area (near butterflies) on Williams; Wendy will potentially try pulling
- Bruce Scherer was consulted to do some clean-up from the invasives work done at Dean's Hill

Sign at the corner of Old Littleton and Pinnacle

- Needs to be stood up
- Needs to be repainted
- Might be a potential Eagle Scout project

Stone

- There needs to be a sign put up where the newly improved Park & Rec trail comes to the boundary with the Stone land
- There isn't a convenient tree at this spot, so we'll use one of the metal posts that Phil has to provide a place to mount the sign

Willard – we talked about possibilities for trail routing – this is a future project

Fall Walk possibilities

- The new Daman property might be considered, though it would be a bushwhack
- We need to discuss the possibilities at a future meeting
- Option discussed at our previous meeting -- starting at the soccer fields (on Depot Road) and continuing through Prospect Hill and Dean's Hill to Madigan Lane

The September 8th Butterfly talk will be cosponsored with the Harvard Cultural Council, which is thinking of having students do butterfly artwork in conjunction

The next meeting will be scheduled for 6/21

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM