

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 17, 2018

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

Not Present: Phil Knoettner, Jim Burns, Bill Blackwell, Jo Ward, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Our session from 3/20/18 had not been an official meeting, so Minutes from the previous meeting (1/23/18), as prepared by Jim Adelson and edited, were approved

Possible additional future projects

- For the additional property donated by the Quarry Lane Homeowner's Association (I may not have the correct name for the group) that is adjacent to the Kaufmann/Russo Land, we'll need to mark property boundaries with typical signage, and possibly extend the trail through the new parcel
- For other properties, review property boundaries, and in some cases ask that Private Property/No Trespassing signs that are located on town property (as seen on Russo) be moved

Spring Walk

- There were 19 attendees for the 4/8 trip on Ohlin, Town Forest, and Kaufmann/Russo
- Participants had heard about the trip from a variety of sources, including word of mouth, *Harvard Press*, *Nextdoor Harvard*, and posted flyers

Brian McClain will be joining Jim Burns in organizing and running chainsaw crew activity

Property Reports

- Holy Hill
 - o There are not too many big obstructions, but still a lot of work that could be done for this great trail, which is one of the most popular and heavily used in Harvard
 - o There is a tree down in the open field located approximately 500 feet NE from the Dancing Ground; this was the site of a workday and clearing project some years ago, and perhaps it would be possible to cut up and burn this tree similarly, though there's not much time before the end of the burning season May 1
- Williams
 - o Wendy, Carl, and Mary Maxwell did a walk here 4/17; the objective was to help Mary, who is a new Trail Steward to understand what we're looking for a steward to do

Trail Steward development

- we're trying to come up with an approach to more generally develop trail stewards
- Carl has invited trail stewards to a session at Holy Hill on Sunday, 4/22 at 2 PM, to review trail steward expectations and practices

Spring Projects

- Resurface Bennett's Brook bridge – Carl is organizing this effort
- Daman signage and trail construction – decided to hold off 'til Fall, to be able to do the trail work once the leaves are gone
- Willard
 - o Wendy has put in initial flagging for a trail; the trail now needs to be cleared
 - o Once the trail has been put in, this would be a good site for a walk, to publicize the property and its attractions; perhaps this could be scheduled for Spring 2019, because the trail may not be done in time for Fall 2018
 - o One area of the prospective trail can get very wet, so some type of boardwalk or other trail work may be necessary
 - o Wendy will lead a walk on Willard on Saturday, 4/21, at 9 AM, to review the prospective trail
- Clapp Cove trail drainage – “we'll see who gets to it first”
- Clapp Cove bridge footing – we may get to look at it when the Willard Trail scouting effort happens on 4/21, or John Lee may tackle it
- Bare Hill Sanctuary wet/eroded section
 - o Perhaps a trip in the Fall to plan an approach
 - o This is a difficult area, due to the conditions and the heavy use
 - o Brian to research possible products/solutions that would help

Trailhead entries – we need to monitor areas that get overgrown and need clearing during the growing season

Marc Sevigny's trail maps – we should review them when possible, and send comments direct to Marc as we have them

Native American Rock Formations

- Sydney organized and conducted a meeting among a number of different groups
- Unfortunately Doug Harris was late to the session
- Sydney will organize follow-up; this has not been scheduled yet
- Brian and Pam were both positive about the spirit and reception at the meeting

New parcel off of Mass Ave

- Still looking to select a name
- Wendy mentioned Gateway Wildlife Area as one possibility
- Barrett (?) was the previous owner, but no connection warranting naming, in the way that's typically done when owners have donated or in other ways assisted the town in getting the parcel

Next meeting

- Tentatively planned for 5/22, the fourth Tuesday of the month, if a suitable meeting room is available, which Wendy will check

- We will perhaps switch to the fourth Tuesday more generally, since our current practice of meeting on the third Tuesday means two meetings the same week for Wendy, since ConCom generally meets the first and third Thursdays of the month

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM