

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 17, 2017

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Phil Knoettner, Carl Sciple

Not Present: Jim Burns, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant, John Lee, Bill Blackwell, Jo Ward, Bob Benson

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

Welcome and thanks to Carl Sciple for joining the group!

Minutes from the previous meeting (9/19/17), as prepared by Jim Adelson, were approved

Fall Walk

- From among the possible routes drawn up by Jim A, we agreed upon a Harvard-Bolton option without a walk on Brown Road; the route starts and ends at Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
- Planned for Sunday, 11/5, at 1:00 PM
- Parking
 - o The lot at Bare Hill doesn't have enough space if we get a large turnout
 - o Wendy will explore possibilities of using the driveway of an adjacent house that is newly built but unoccupied, and with Chris Tracey who lives nearby
 - o We can also offer the option of having people park at Bolton's Bowers Spring parking lot and get shuttled to Bare Hill, both for the additional parking space and also to make a shorter option available for participants preferring a shorter walk
- Brian reported that there is a large tree down on the Bare Hill section, which is somewhat difficult to get around; we'll try to get it removed before the walk, or possible use one of the other Bowers/Bare Hill trails to avoid it
- Action Items
 - o Jim to draft a flyer; Wendy will provide a picture for it
 - o Jim will send the flyer to the Harvard Press, by 10/23
 - o Jim will post the flyer at the library, general store, and post office
 - o Brian will post in Nextdoor Harvard
 - o Wendy will line up a Harvard Conservation Trust e-mail announcement

Existing property reports

- Bare Hill
 - o In addition to the tree mentioned above, there is at least one and possibly more trees near the Woodside entrance that will need to be taken out
 - o Wendy pulled the stiltgrass discussed at our previous meeting, though it had already gone to seed, so we will have to do additional work next season
- Tripp
 - o Brian reported a new tree down that needs to be removed

- Hermann Orchards
 - o Wendy reported that stiltgrass is getting established in the entry road
- Williams
 - o A number of things need to be cleared
 - o Wendy wanted to develop a neighborhood group to tackle on an on-going basis
 - o Carl to talk to Jim Maxwell, who lives nearby, about a trailkeeper role
- Holy Hill
 - o The “Poison Ivy” Field is growing up again
 - o Phil will talk to Ned and Sue Toll about organizing a neighborhood for on-going responsibility here
- Old Mill
 - o We need to perform clearing, and report to the Department of the Interior group that had asked about clearing activity for this trail
 - o Jim A will reconnoiter and organize a clearing effort
 - o Phil, Carl, and Jim B are all potential helpers
- Daman
 - o Wendy still needs to go over the property
- General
 - o We want to encourage more neighborhood groups, to have a better, more sustainable approach to continuing trail maintenance
 - o Brian mentioned that the use of a white font on green in the Trail Log is a problem, because it means that if you insert a new line below, it inherits the white font which is invisible on the standard background; Jim A to look into (changed 10/18)

Trail Work Co-leader

- Jim B could use help with organizing and managing the trail clearing activities
- Chris Frechette had been identified last meeting as a possible candidate, but we thought Chris may already be too heavily committed to other things
- Carl was willing to take on this role

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Membership

- The group is actually supposed to be no more than 7 members, and we currently have more
- We decided that the formal members will be Wendy Sisson (Chair), Jim Burns, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant, and Carl Sciple, with Phil Knoettner as an Emeritus member

Next meeting will be November 28th

- This is the fourth Tuesday, but the third Tuesday was right before Thanksgiving
- We still could switch back to 11/21; if people prefer this, let Wendy know
- Jim A checked after the meeting on something he remembered vaguely on his calendar for 11/28, but confirmed that it was earlier in the day, and therefore not a conflict

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM