

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 19, 2017

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Burns, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant

Not Present: John Lee, Phil Knoettner, Bill Blackwell, Jo Ward, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting (6/20/17), as prepared by Jim Adelson, were approved

Existing property reports

- Prospect Hill
 - o Wendy reported two trees across the yellow trail
 - o Jim B added that he'd also seen a tree down across a blue trail
- Hoch
 - o Sydney reported two trees down, in the area of the old mill dam site
 - o Sydney also indicated that the trail needs trimming, which she said she would do
 - o Jim B reported that he'd weed whacked the entrance a month and a half ago or so; this prompted the idea that we should have a session to train others on the use of the weed whacker
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
 - o Pam reported a tree down across the boardwalk, plus possibly another, though that one may be in the Bolton section
 - o A section with the invasive stilt grass has also been sighted; Sydney and Wendy are potentially going to work 9/23 on removing the stilt grass
- Small Nature Trail
 - o Harvard's school superintendent asked about who's responsible for maintaining this trail, expressing concern about poison ivy for students and faculty
 - o Wendy will take a look at the trail to recommend what should be done
- Hermann Orchard
 - o Clearing currently being done
 - o Work on clearing/improving the access will wait until after the clearing is completed
 - o Parking is still a significant problem for this property

Trail log

- Jim A reported that there have been no new entries in the last several months

Chainsaw crew and signage responsibility

- Wendy indicated that Phil had been having some health problems, and that it would be good to find another person to share chainsaw crew leadership with Jim B; we thought Chris Frechette might be a good candidate, and Jim B will call him
- We also would need someone to take over the responsibility for stenciled signs; Jim B thought that Tom Stapleton might be a candidate

- Wendy will also check with the COA, to see if they know of seniors who might want to get involved

LSS website

- Wendy has a number of additional materials that she wants to add to the website

New property projects

- Daman
 - o This property is located on the east side of Rt. 495, at the Bolton line, near Whitcomb Rd in Bolton
 - o Wendy wants to explore and put up some signs
- Willard
 - o Trying to get an easement from the Still River Association, to cover the link between Willard and Clapp Scorgie
 - o We don't want to make a trail on the property or lead a public walk until that gets resolved
 - o We could conceivably do a winter walk there (late winter)

Fall Walk

- One possibility would include the new trail on the property donated by the Levisons, combined with Powell-Reed-Abbot
- Another possibility would utilize some or all of Kaufman, Ohlin, and Town Forest, with parking at Village Nursery School
- Jim A will map out and circulate some potential routes to consider
- A possible date would be Sunday, 11/5 (this is Patriots bye week, so no conflict there)
- We'll have a chance to make decisions at our next meeting, in time to do publicity for the event

Fall workday

- Possibly work on clearing at Williams
- Potential date/time – 10/1, 12:30 or 1:00 (avoiding a conflict with Sudbury Valley Trustees event 10-11:30)

Ryan Williams did some work on collecting GPS data for Harvard trails, but we don't know how far he got

Deer survey

- Wendy did some work with David Stainbrook, the contact from Fish & Wildlife
- The areas that they covered showed signs of being slightly overpopulated, but not severely so
- The observation and data collection has to be done in a particular way to be useful
- Wendy will talk more about this at a future meeting

Next meeting will be October 17th

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM