

# HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**February 27, 2018**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Carl Sciple, Jim Burns

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

**Guest:** Marc Sevigny, Harvard Conservation Trust

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

### Amphibian Crossing Preparation

- Perhaps get better signs – Wendy to investigate
- Amphibian movement may be earlier this year
- Create an article for *The Harvard Press*, with a picture of a salamander – Sydney
- Place an article on *Nextdoor Harvard* and collect comments, including potentially identifying additional locations -- Brian

Minutes from the previous meeting (1/23/18), as prepared by Jim Adelson, were approved, with correction of the date to read 1/23/18 rather than 1/23/17

### Potential name for the Mass Ave property

- Perhaps include “Wildlife Sanctuary” or “Wildlife Area”
- Perhaps “Gateway”
- There is no name for the stream that runs through the property
- Will require additional thinking

### Reports

- Prospect Hill (report from Wendy) – there is just one small pine down on the sections Wendy covered; Wendy will take it out with a hand saw
- Clapp-Scorgie (report from Brian)
  - o Mary Traphagen was willing to become trailkeeper
  - o Mary reported a tree down, but didn’t indicate where
  - o Wendy said the trail will need additional work on the muddy area near Clapp Cove
- Hermann Orchard (report from Wendy) – there is a tree down on the access road, but complicating its removal is a huge poison ivy vine on the tree, so anyone clearing there should be careful if susceptible to poison ivy

### Capobianco Land

- Owner preparing to sell now; back lot off Willard Lane probably around \$1M
- Concom and HCT are investigating; corridor and protection of wetland high priority for concom; expense of property will be a challenge

### Signage Materials

- Wendy picked a new nail to be standard, and has included its description in the Trail Standards
- Wendy also needs to order more blue blazes

#### Trail Mapping – Marc Sevigny joined

- Trail maps need updating, since the last printed version came out in 2001 and there have been new properties added and changes made on existing properties
- Marc used OpenStreetMap, an open source world map which you can edit; Marc has done enough editing to reach a certain level, so that he gets notified if anyone else edits the portions of the map that he's been involved with, so he could correct an errant or malicious entry by someone else
- Marc has walked all of the trails with GPS, thereby adding the trail locations to the OpenStreetMap data; Marc advised that there is generally 10' – 20' margin of error with this approach
- Marc then took the underlying data from OpenStreetMap, and brought it into PowerPoint where he could add more information, such as possible parking and trail colors corresponding to the yellow and blue used in Harvard for primary and secondary trails
- The set of maps Marc created are in draft form now, so he welcomes any comments from LSS
- Hopefully in the future they will be in Harvard-trails.com, and also accessed through masstrails.com, the site linking to all trail maps in Massachusetts
- Still thinking about and working on possible issues with other individuals and groups using the maps for unwanted purposes, such as others organizing specialized trips or placing QR code markers on trails

#### Spring Walk (April 8)

- Jim A presented a potential route, which people decided to go with
- Brian to secure permission for parking at Village Nursery School, the start/end for the walk
- Jim A to create a flyer
- Publicity
  - o Brian to handle notice(s) through *Nextdoor Harvard*
  - o Jim A to send information to *The Harvard Press*
  - o Jim A to send information to Wendy for a potential HCT e-mail blast
  - o Jim A to put up flyers at the library, General Store, and post office
  - o Carl to send out information to trail keepers

Next meeting – March 20th

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM