

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 22, 2022

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Peter von Conta, Brian McClain

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM as a virtual meeting (recorded)

Minutes from the 1/25/22 meeting, as drafted by Jim A, were approved

Additions to the agenda

- The sign/kiosk at Sprague has been knocked over
- We will need to re-install when the ground is unfrozen
- The parking area is a tough spot, and we will need to talk more about the parking area and sign placement

Property Reports

- Wendy reported that she'd been to a number of properties that were generally in good shape, as far as fallen trees go
 - o Prospect Hill
 - o Williams
 - o Great Elms
 - o Willard
- Brian said that Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary was pretty clear; there is one overhanging tree closer to Bolton that would be quite difficult to remove, so Brian is looking at rerouting there
- Clapp-Scorgie
 - o Peter reported that Clapp-Scorgie was OK for trees
 - o The snowmobile club was potentially going to use loam tailings on the Clapp Cove section of the trail, but the material is difficult to work with in cold temperatures; Wendy and Peter to visit the area to determine what to do
- While Great Elms was OK from the standpoint of fallen trees, it does need some additional blazing (counterclockwise on loop), according to Wendy

Bowers Springs/Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary boardwalk

- Peter had a short presentation on the situation and approach
- In Peter's judgment, a lot of the boardwalk could be salvaged, repaired, and re-leveled
- The actual bridge span over Bowers Brook felt pretty solid, according to Peter
- Peter had materials estimates that would allow calculation of the materials costs for the work; Peter will estimate board lengths, so that Wendy can get lumber costs from Moore's

Bridle Way – needs additional boardwalk work

Invasives

- Phragmites are still present where Bowers Brook comes out of Bare Hill Pond
- There are two major areas – one by the dam, and the other by Still River Rd – and a few smaller spots
- We're still looking for a proposal for their removal

Wild and Scenic Grant for Bowers Brook signs

- Wendy created and submitted the grant application
- We haven't heard yet whether we'll receive a grant
- The application calls for two signs – one for each direction – for road/brook crossings
- Installation has to be done by DPW; Wendy spec'ed their style of hardware in the application

Deer Management Program Update

- The three does taken this year were one apiece in Hermann Orchard, Gillette, and Blomfelt
- Wendy anticipates that they will be asking about what other areas to include going forward
- We could encourage the hunters to also work with private landowners who request it
- There was mention of planting red oak seedlings to attract deer for hunting, but the idea of a larger scale red oak planting was daunting to consider

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions has a two-week virtual conference coming up in March, and the Harvard Conservation Commission would potentially pay your entry for a workshop if you wanted to go

To have info on Haskell planting at the next meeting

Next meeting – 3/22/22

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM