

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 25, 2022

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

Guests: Tom Gormley

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM as a virtual meeting, after some difficulties in getting our Zoom launched.

Minutes from the 9/27/22 meeting, as drafted by Jim A and modified by Wendy, were approved unanimously.

Fall Walk

- To take place at Holy Hill, on Saturday, November 5th, at 1:30
- Wendy, Jim A, and Margaret Kusner did a pre-walk on the route on 10/22
- Publicity
 - o *Harvard Press* – already in the Events
 - o Physical Flyers – Jim A put them up at the Post Office and the Library
 - o *Nextdoor Harvard* – Brian to post
 - o Harvard Conservation Trust email – Wendy to check again (mailed 10/28)
 - o Margaret Kusner's article on the hike in the *Harvard Press* (published 10/28)

CPC Application for Funding

- Wendy submitted the application for \$26,000
- Wendy knew of another application from HCT for funding
- There will be a meeting 10/26 to review – Wendy, Brian to go
- Wendy has some before and after photos for the meeting, which she'll send to Brian for him to show
- The Climate Committee has come up with a Climate Action Plan; it includes a section on invasives
- The new CPC funding, if provided, would come July 2023

Beaver Deceiver, on the Prospect Hill Trail behind the transfer station

- Wendy spoke with Mark Adams of the Snowmobile Club, who recommended that we purchase another load of loam tailings and of crushed stone for the base of the rip rap behind the transfer station
- The Land Stewardship Subcommittee voted unanimously to ask the Conservation Commission to pay \$510 for two loads of loam tailings to complete trail work in muddy spots

Holy Hill – Snowmobile Club to potentially re-cover the hill incline with star pack, where there's been some erosion

Hermann Orchard

- Wendy reviewed the north orchard plan with Bruce Sherer, including to potentially remove some trees to restore the northern view

- Some white pine removal planned on the north orchard
- Jim Burns to possibly take some oak
- Potential need to address bittersweet

Invasives

- Spraying was completed at the end of September
- Some cutting, like buckthorn, remains to be done through the next month, weather permitting

Wild and Scenic Grant

- Potential locations for watershed maps
 - o Stone Land, overlooking the mill pond
 - o Pin Hill near Bowers Brook
 - o Harvard Town Beach – we'd need to get permission
 - o Bowers Springs/Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary boardwalk brook crossing
 - o Corner of Pinnacle and Old Littleton
 - o Wendy to add stars showing "You Are Here"
- Installation
 - o Potentially look at getting the map mounted on plastic, in a more durable fashion than if we print the map on paper
 - o Wendy to look at mounting options

Haskell Land

- Has been seeded with rye
- Wendy called off the native grass seeding again; the native grasses would have had difficulty competing with weeds
- Native grass to get done this time next year, after the rye grass has been harvested

Deer hunting season is on; signs are up on conservation land, and info is on the town website

Chestnuts

- Brian reported that there may be deregulation sooner than previously expected
- Brian was able to harvest approximately 220 burrs from a chestnut in North Bolton, but many were not fertile, so it yielded about 50 nuts
- "It was a horrible season for chestnuts" – the drought knocked out about 60%
- Continuing to move closer to blight-resistant chestnuts being available in large numbers
- Brian said he probably loses 5-6 trees a year
 - o Blight
 - o Voles
 - o Heat
- Brian has used 5' deer tubes; he said that given his use of deer repellent, he probably could have used 4'

Next meeting – 11/22

The meeting adjourned at 8:55