

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

**December 13, 2022**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Pam Durrant

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

Minutes from the 10/25/22 meeting, as drafted by Jim A and modified by Wendy, were approved unanimously.

Wendy may still apply for a small grant from Suasco-CISMA for Japanese knotweed control, for an area on Stow Rd and the Perini land near 495, and also on Barrett land on Mass Ave; this would be an example, to try to get additional funding from the town; Wendy reported that it would cost \$1,600 for one day of work by one person.

Hermann Orchard access trail

- When access through Margaret Nessler's CR is opened, LSS needs to clear trail on Hermann O.
- There are three white pines down on the trail; Wendy will talk to Jim Burns

Depot Road entry to Prospect Hill

- A beaver deceiver was put in, which requires sufficient water depth
- Mud surrounding the wire mesh around the culvert has been breached, lowering the water level
- The snowmobile club wants to go forward spreading loam tailings on the trail now, which we're concerned will lead to a rutted, muddy mess; the loam tailings are a desirable solution, but need to be done in a drier period of the season
- Wendy can potentially work on a boardwalk as an interim solution within the next week

Stone Land boardwalk

- Somebody constructed a boardwalk/bridge from old pallets
- This will become dangerous as it breaks, exposing nails
- Wendy and Brian to potentially work on removing

Wild & Scenic Grant Final Report

- Wendy completed the project and the report
- The signs and maps are up

Invasives – we'll have to see next Spring how effective treatments were

Deer Hunting Program

- 4 deer killed this year, in Daman Stephenson and Maxant – 4 does
- Wendy to try to look into how many deer in Harvard were killed in vehicle collisions
- There continue to be requests for additional hunting properties; heatmaps that show conservation property trail use would be helpful in enabling us to recommend any additional properties that do not receive heavy use

Wendy did not have an update on Rob's status, or Tom Gormley's continuing interest in taking on an LSS position when Rob moves from town

#### HCT New Year's Walk

- To be on Prospect Hill
- Not planning to go up Dean's Hill
- Wendy walked the route and did not see trail maintenance efforts needed prior to the walk

Next meeting – January 24, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 8:15