

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 21, 2017

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Bill Blackwell, Brian McClain

Not Present: Jim Burns, John Lee, Sydney Blackwell, Phil Knoettner, Pam Durrant, Jo Ward, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. at the Town Hall

Minutes from the previous meeting (1/31/17), as prepared by Jim Adelson, were approved

“Amphibians Crossing” Signs

- We will have 12 of these signs, enabling us to mark 6 locations
- Brian McClain will determine the locations and place the signs

Property/Trail Reports

- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary – Brian had walked it, and seen one tree that needed to be removed, although walkers can easily get by
- Town Forest – Brian had walked this, and found a tree in the south section that was not easy to get by, and will need to be removed by chain saw
- Tripp – Brian walked this as well, again locating trees that needed to be removed and require a chain saw
- Vesenska – Wendy had walked this and spotted some smaller items, but these can be removed without a chain saw, and Wendy plans to accomplish this before the Spring Walk
- Clapp-Scorgie
 - o Wendy observed a large tree snagged perhaps 20’ above the ground horizontally, just west of where the trail crosses the dirt road from Still River Road to Bare Hill Pond; we’re not likely to be able to remove it, but should perhaps put in signs warning people to observe carefully before passing underneath
 - o The repaired drainage on the section leading to Willard was continuing to work well

On-line Trail Reporting

- Brian had made entries reporting on the trails he’d walked as listed above
- Jim A said he’d go through old entries, to take ones listed in red and, if the needed work had been completed, he’d convert the color to black (done)
- Jim A said he’d enter the information from Wendy’s report on Clapp-Scorgie (done)
- Bill hasn’t had a chance to try to enable remote entry from phones into the Trail Condition Log, but he’s still hoping to accomplish this

Website – Bill is looking to update the LSS website, once he’s gotten access

Parking Areas – There was a brief discussion on what our standards should be for parking areas (conditions, plowing, etc.), but no conclusions were reached

Massachusetts Deer Browse Impact Survey

- Wendy had received forms, and showed them
- These need to be completed for our conservation lands, to have evidence of impact
- Wendy thinks the effects are pretty evident, most everywhere
- Wendy and Pam will plan to train others on filling out the forms
- The observations can be made and forms completed in any season
- Wendy noted that a decrease in deer population doesn't necessarily translate into a decrease in Lyme Disease
- Jim A will scan and send out the forms (done)

Invasives

- Jim Burns had requested training on identifying invasives; Wendy will conduct such training

April Walk

- The walk has now been scheduled for Sunday, 4/9 at 1:30 PM
- The location will be at Vesenka, going from the Friendly Crossways parking lot
- The focus will be on vernal pools; Matt Varrell, wetland scientist, will come along to talk about this subject
- Wendy had created the first draft of a flyer; Wendy will revise, including changing one of the images and adding language indicating no dogs on this particular walk, and send on to Jim A
- Jim A will place an entry in the Nextdoor Harvard Event schedule, and will also add another mention of the event in Nextdoor Harvard when we get closer
- Wendy will take care of providing information to The Harvard Press, posting in the Library, and checking with Harvard Conservation Trust about doing an e-mail

Jim Burns will organize a chainsaw "tutorial" session

Next Meeting – likely Tues., 4/25, Wendy to confirm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM