

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING – approved 10/16/12

July 17, 2012

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Phil Knoettner, Jim Adelson

Members not Present: Dave Kay, Pam Durrant, Marc Sevigny, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. in the Hildreth House Meeting Room

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Equipment

- Phil purchased a Corona folding 10” pruning saw for \$18; he’ll try using it
- Wendy asked about obtaining some type of pole saw to remove higher branches; Phil thought that good ones can approach \$200, and we’ll have to look at what the choices are

Sasha David is looking to help/volunteer; she can take on lighter work, and Phil thought removing 1” pine seedlings at the Dancing Ground would be a suitable project

Phil’s update on project work

- Holy Hill
 - o The Dancing Ground fence on the Ann Lee Road side (West) has been finished
 - o Additional work scheduled for 7/18 on the North side fence
 - o Further work needed on the bolts to mount fence rails
 - o Fences on other sides will get attention next year
 - o Phil or Bob Benson to remove a couple old standing tree trunks in the Dancing Ground area
- Millie’s Path – work there has been completed, and the field just needs to be mowed
- Phil anticipates putting up the new wooden entry signs for selected properties in a couple of weeks

Trail Challenge

- Robin Malloy has put in a request to place “punches” on a number of trails, as part of a Trail Challenge where participants have a form and look to find the punches and use them to complete their form; this effort would encourage additional trail use
- Our subcommittee wanted to find out where they’re going to be put, and how they’re to be mounted/attached
- We recommended a number of trails as potential candidates: Blomfelt, Kaufman, Millie’s Path, Ohlin, Old Mill, Pin Hill, Shaker Spring, Small Nature Trail, Sprague, Tripp, and Vesenska/Black Pond

- There were also a couple that we would recommend against, for particular reasons: Herrman (poor parking/access) and Maxant (trail obscured by brook-caused conditions)
- Jim Adelson volunteered to work with Robin Malloy
- Some discussion of this topic is expected at the 7/19 Con Com meeting, and after that, Wendy and Jim will be in contact with Robin

Snowmobile Trail Walk

- A trail and date had been picked, but the trail hadn't yet been flagged, so this walk has been postponed
- Wendy anticipates rescheduling for September

DPW Mowing List – Wendy had created a list showing the properties that DPW is responsible for mowing, and will ask them to fill in when they do mow a field

We felt that it would be beneficial to mark additional primary and secondary trail entries on certain properties with our new small sign, and expect to work on that in the Fall

Benches – we will have a larger discussion of this at a later meeting, but should continue to collect photographs of examples we see in other towns

Wendy indicated that at the 7/19 Con Com meeting, she expected possible discussion of a request which a family was presenting, to place a memorial on conservation property

Phil asked about flow levels in Bowers Brook, having observed a surprisingly rapid drop in water within the past few weeks; Wendy thought this was perhaps due to the effect of some recently replaced boards at the Bare Hill Pond outlet, and will find out about this from the Bare Hill Pond Committee, which controls stream flow levels

Wendy showed pictures taken as part of the studies being conducted on Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly habitat on the Williams Land

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, 8/28, at 7:15 PM at the Old Library.