

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 27, 2013

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Pam Durrant, Dave Kay

Members not Present: Phil Knoettner, Marc Sevigny, Bob Benson

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

Minutes from the previous meeting, as prepared by Marc, were approved

Updates/Activities with Harvard Conservation Trust

- Peter Dorward is the new head of Land Stewardship within HCT
- Pam shared handouts from a Montachusett regional-led Community Trail Vision effort
- Wendy said she's fully supportive, but LSS doesn't have resources to put to it right now

GPS work

- Barbara Heim will potentially help with recording locations of special plants, using her Apple device
- Dave Kay will begin the work on capturing GPS data for the trail locations
- Wendy, Pam, and Dave can start on working with GPS, so that several of us are involved and know how to do it; Tuesday and Thursday mornings appear the most likely times
- Wendy will look for an earlier set of Barbara Heim e-mails that mention unusual plants found and where they were
- Pam will make an initial list of the highest priority sites to start with for special plants

We plan to have Ted Elliman give a talk on invasives, focusing on steps that residents can take to control them on their own property; likely date Tuesday 5/21

Communications for Town Meeting

- Wendy will have copies of the annual report, to be available from the ConCom table
- If possible, Wendy will bring a map of Powell-Reed-Abbot, to show where the most recent invasives work has been done

Dean's Hill

- The top has a lot of bittersweet; also some more attractive species, too, like gray dogwood, according to Pam
- We should schedule an LSS walk there, to review and decide what steps to take

White Pine cutting

- First stands to consider are in Hermann's Orchard and in Shapple (SE corner of the intersection of Pinnacle and Old Littleton roads)

- Wendy had a logger look at it, the approach would probably be clear cutting; potentially it might yield \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Wendy will take a recommendation for cutting on the Shappley property to ConCom

Hermann Orchard apple tree clearing

- Tony Shaw has made a proposal
- Wendy has a meeting scheduled with another potential clearing firm 3/28
- Bruce Scherer from Heritage Fields has a possible plan/proposal as well

Agricultural Uses on Conservation property

- According to town counsel, uses should be licensed, rather than structured as a land lease
- We need to review and upgrade our license, without mounting a major effort like Lincoln
- Perhaps the right time interval would be 3 years, with an annual reporting requirement

Signage

- We need to put up additional signs showing conservation land boundaries on Tripp; Jim volunteered to help with this
- Similarly, it would be nice to mark the boundaries on Clapp-Scorgie, when you head off conservation land, to indicate that you're crossing onto private land
- We should also mark the boundaries of the new Hoch property, which should be relatively easy since it's been recently surveyed

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM