

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 16, 2014

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner, Pam Durrant

Members not Present: Dave Kay, 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 (9/23/14), as prepared by Jim, were approved

Williams – Phil and Bob have cleared the downed trees

Sprague – Phil and Bob have cleared the downed trees

Maple Lane

- Wendy got proposals from several contractors to remove the large fallen maple
- The work will be done this week
- White pine removal will have to be revisited next year

Hoch

- Much trail work completed since our last meeting
 - o Completion of the trail and blazing
 - o Second bridge, over the stream crossing
 - o Fallen trees cleared
- Worked very well as part of our November trail walk

GPS/Baseline documentation training with MassLift

- Wendy is working with Peter Dorward
- While we did not get a sought grant, we'll still be able to do the training
- Wendy will be meeting with MassLift 1/13/15, to discuss the training and potential scheduling
- Wendy, Jim, Phil, and Pam are all interested in the training, if it's conducted when they're around and available
- The training will provide information for several possible uses
 - o Baseline documentation
 - o CR monitoring
 - o Trail mapping

Holy Hill Signage and Erosion Control

- Ron from DPW to lead putting fences in place to redirect walkers and snowmobilers
- Once the fences are in place, Wendy will put up trail signage to direct visitors

Brown/Great Elms connector, trail signage, and blazing

- Need a walk to explore; Pam & Wendy to undertake
- Need some reblazing in certain spots on the existing Great Elms and Brehm trails - Wendy
- Need some chain saw tree removal – Phil, probably in late February

Bolton/Harvard Walk – Reiterated that this had been a great success

March Walk

- One possibility would be Williams/Great Elms/Brown
- Another possibility would be Holy Hill, with return via Shaker and South Shaker roads
- Jim will investigate calendar possibilities, with April 12th being one we identified

Bare Hill Sanctuary

- A reroute is needed as the trail goes through a field, with a switchback to reduce erosion
- The reroute needs to be marked, probably using the type of poles that are normally seen for snowplow edges
- Phil will provide certain supplies for the project, including a metal rod for creating holes for the snowplow stakes
- Jim will get additional snowplow stakes, at Ocean State Job Lot

Lawton baseline documentation and trail route – revisit this project in spring

Dunlap CR Monitoring

- Recently done by Harvard Conservation Trust
- ConCom (LSS) will need to visit in Spring and install signage

Hoskins Point area – early spring clean-up, perhaps April

Posting names on conservation land

- Only Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary currently has its name posted
- This would be an expensive project, because of the number of custom signs needed; not a priority

Invasives Update

- Presentation and request for CPC money was done 12/10/14
- Approximately \$33K of the initial \$50K has been spent to date; of the remaining \$17K, perhaps \$7K will be used in the rest of the initial 3-year period, and the other \$10K rolled over into the next 3-year period, along with an additional \$50K requested
- Proposed uses if \$10K rollover + \$50K funding = \$60K is available
 - o Clapp-Scorgie, Smith-Tufts and Bellevue Cemetery– Black Swallowwort, Japanese Barberry, and Multiflora Rose to be tackled in additional sections of the property
 - o Maxant – Japanese Knotweed patch also as demo for DPW
 - o Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary – Bittersweet in white pines and understory
 - o Hermann Orchard – Apple trees removed down to flush stumps on the south side

Tripp

- Pam reported that there's some burning bush that should be pulled before it gets more widespread and established; this is a potential project for March
- Also should mark certain boundaries, particularly where dumping has been done

Upcoming potential meeting dates – 1/20/15, 2/17/15, 3/17/15

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM