

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING – approved 7/22/14

May 27, 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 7:25 P.M. in the Hildreth House meeting room

Minutes from the previous meeting (3/18/14), as prepared by Jim, were approved

Powell

- Too much bittersweet left in the field to plant grass this year – to hit with pesticide again
- A little black swallowwort has been spotted
- Did spray effectively, at the stone wall at the back edge of the field; no invasives growing, but still some debris, which may require a work day to remove, or we may wind up paying Bruce Shearer (sp?) to do it; the removal might still enable us to seed there this year
- We may need to do a little trail rerouting to decrease the tendency for erosion
- The old sign at the Bolton Road entry is deteriorating; Phil will take it down and put up one of our standard white signs in the area

Bare Hill/Bowers Spring

- Need some rerouting in the former orchard area to avoid a wet spot
- There is a lot of mud on the lower trail, which we may also need to address via rerouting

Holy Hill

- Work day organized by Hugh Silk didn't happen because of bad weather
- Dancing Grounds Fence
 - o Repairs needed
 - o Possibly a snowmobile caused the damage
 - o Phil will take a look to determine the approach for the repairs
 - o We should talk to the snowmobilers to encourage them to stay on the current trail, which doesn't go through the Dancing Grounds

Prospect Hill

- Wendy will put up one of our standard white signs near the entry from Depot Road/playing fields and the DPW
- Wendy will look at whether we need to remove the trail blazes in the section of trail near the Depot Road/playing fields and DPW entrance
- It would be ideal if we could clear a path, including cutting down the poison ivy, in the first 200 yards or so of the entrance from Prospect Hill Road

Hoskings Point

- No attempt yet to remove the graffiti – Phil to go at it
- The firepit doesn't appear to be getting a lot of use
- We'll look to get the chain put back up on the access road, to keep people from driving in there
- Wendy will talk to Christian Bilodeau, who lives nearby, to encourage him to spread the word with neighbors to avoid a repeat
- If we decide we want to take apart the firepit, we may need to organize a work day for it

Hoch Trail

- We will need to put in a walking bridge where the broken culvert is (the broken culvert will remain); Phil will define and price the materials for the bridge
- Wendy, Pam, and Jim will have a session to mark the potential trail (subsequently scheduled for the morning of 6/10, with rain date of 6/12)

Stone

- We need to get the assessor's map, to know where the boundaries are for the property, given that it's not in the last printed guidebook
- Wendy and Jim will go look at the existing trail and what's needed to re-establish it
- It may make more sense to try to connect the trail to Harvard Park rather than to the Maxant Trail, because the Maxant Trail is currently in poor shape and needs work

Tripp

- Pam reported seeing burning bush, in the northeast portion of the property
- There was consensus that March is the best time to attempt removal of burning bush – the snow is gone, other foliage is still down, and no ticks present, providing the best conditions to pull it out; we will presumably look to schedule something next March

Fall Cross-Town Walk

- We still plan to combine Bolton and Harvard, and would like to include a newly-created trail on the Hoch land
- Jim and Pam to come up with some possible routes for discussion at a future meeting
- We should contact Carol Lombard of Bolton Con Comm to plan the event

Maple Lane

- We can potentially get CPC money to cut down the large white pines that have grown up, thereby restoring the original character and make it possible to see the maples
- The pines are large enough that their removal would have to be done by professionals – we would need to get estimates
- Wendy will talk to Bob Moran, to make sure he's aware of and in agreement with the plan

Bob and Phil will work to take care of fallen trees in several areas

Old Mill

- Jim will try using sandpaper to remove painted blazes on one or more trail sections that have now been rerouted
- One section, in the southwest corner of the property, needs some tree clearing and rerouting/markings; Jim will take this on and ask for help if more assistance is needed

Pin Hill

- Trail is in good condition
- The secondary trail along the ridgeline now has appropriate blue trail markers, although no one knows who put them there

Property Entries through fields – there are a number of properties where the initial entry goes through a field, and it would be ideal to get a path cleared through, requiring more frequent attention than yearly mowing

- Powell
- Prospect Hill
- Sprague (?)
- Murray Lane and right-of-way across the street
- Clapp-Scorgie entrance from Turner Lane
- Possibly others

Clapp-Scorgie

- Buckthorn removal – Bruce Shearer (sp?) will tackle, in the first week of June

Hermann Orchard

- The number of trees to be removed is much greater than previously thought – probably around 650, rather than 200
- Given the greater number, we will probably have to tackle this in phases
- It also means we'll likely have to plan to burn the brush on site
- Wendy will meet with Sean McLaughlin to discuss when he's back in town

Next meeting will be 6/17

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM