

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 22, 2014

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner

Members not Present: Pam Durrant, 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 (5/27/14), as prepared by Jim and modified by Wendy, were approved

Hoch

- Entry Bridge
 - o Had to wait 'til after 7/1 for the new fiscal year to get budget for bridge materials
 - o Won't be replacing the culvert
 - o A permit is required for the bridge; ConCom has to approve, and Wendy will present it
 - o Bob Benson and Ned Leeming will likely help Phil construct the bridge; Phil felt the three of them could do it
 - o The bridge will be 3' wide, with a railing; Phil to design
- Need a second bridge at the stream crossing; Wendy and Phil to visit to determine requirements
- Weed whacking is needed to clear the entry
- A sign is also needed at the entry
- Trail creation
 - o Wendy, Pam, and Jim did the initial marking for the trail 6/10/14
 - o Work on the trail creation to resume after approximately 8/27/14

Hoskings Point

- The sign that Wendy had put up had been vandalized and then removed altogether
- The chain has been put in place, preventing access from Still River Rd; perhaps people are still driving in from Turner Lane
- A neighbor said she'd clean up the trash that had been left at the site
- Some cleaning in the woods would be nice at some point
- No attempt has been made to remove the graffiti, and we speculate that sanding it off may either prompt additional graffiti or do just as much "visual damage" to the appearance of the rock, so we'll leave the graffiti

Maple Lane

- Marc Sevigny had organized and led the clearing work that had been done

- Phil will take a look to determine what more is needed
- Wendy will get in touch with Bob Moran

Holy Hill

- Most of the repair of the Dancing Ground fence has been completed, with just one more fence board that Phil will paint
- Wendy will ask the Snowmobile Club to make sure their users don't go through the Dancing Ground when the Snowmobile Club comes before ConCom; we believe their trail bypasses the Dancing Ground, so hopefully it shouldn't be a problem
- Phil will put up one of our standard signs at the entry to Holy Hill from the parking area near the pond and ballfield on Ann Lee Rd

Wendy will order additional nails

Wendy will put up a standard sign at the Depot Rd/Ryan Field entry to Prospect Hill

Hermann Orchard

- Wendy met with Sean McLaughlin to review the approach for clearing the orchard trees
- Bruce Shearer is likely to do the clearing work, which will be phased over multiple years; the plan is to start after Bruce finishes removing the buckthorn at Clapp-Scorgie in October 2014

Powell – debris remains to be removed at the back edge of the field; either we'll have a work day to do it, or possibly Bruce Shearer will do it

Field Mowing/Trail Entry Clearing

- Wendy has updated the field list
- Wayne Carolan is the contracted mower; Wendy is speaking to him about what he can do for our needs
- Wayne's mowing/clearing should start in another week or so
- Wendy will also be providing guidance on the timing for various field clearings
- Wendy will collect and add info on trail entries that also need to be cleared

Stone/Maxant – Jim and Wendy still need to schedule a visit to determine the best route

Bolton-Harvard Walk

- Jim had put together a possible route for this Fall activity
 - o Wendy suggested modifications to the prospective route to include more of the Bolton Loop trail, and also to include Levinson, thereby emphasizing these trails and reducing the amount of road walking in the route
 - o Jim to review the route possibilities with Pam, who knows the trails best among the subcommittee members
- Looking to target a date in late October; need to consult hunting "calendar" to try to avoid an active hunting period

Wendy has now passed the test to obtain a pesticide license

Based on people's travel schedules, we will skip the August meeting, and plan our next meeting for the third Tuesday in September (9/16)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM