

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

**September 23, 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 (7/22/14), as prepared by Jim, were approved

Williams

- There were about 7-8 trees down, which Phil and Bob Benson cleared
- We should consider a potential connector to the new Brown land parcel; Wendy will look to talk with Peter Dorward, Land Stewardship chair for the Harvard Conservation Trust, to consider

Sprague

- There are some trees that need work on this property also; Phil and Bob will tackle this

Maple Lane

- There is a very large tree, leaning and engaged, near the end of the lane
  - o This job will require use of a crane, so a professional firm is needed
  - o Sean Bilodeau's company provided a quote
  - o Wendy is seeking other quotes
  - o Phil, Pam, and Jim suggested several other possible firms to contact
- A separate, potential project would be to restore the character of Maple Lane by removing the large white pines that have grown up here and planting sugar maples in a few spots where they are currently missing
  - o Would seek CPC funding to undertake this project
  - o Would look to work with the Historical Commission, Tree Warden, and Garden Club
  - o Wendy will be submitting a preliminary proposal by 9/26/14, for this to get CPC consideration, with the final version of the proposal due in December 2014

Invasives

- As we're going through the third year of this project, it has made a significant difference in the areas that have been treated
- We intend to submit a proposal for CPC funding of \$50K for an additional three years of treatments; the target properties for this phase would be Hermann Orchard, Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, and a different section of Clapp-Scorgie

- For the Land Stewardship Subcommittee, this second round of invasives work is higher priority than the Maple Lane restoration discussed previously

## Hoch

- Entry Bridge
  - o The Highway Department was very helpful in delivering the materials to the site; Phil sent a note to Rich Nota thanking them
  - o The bridge construction effort on 9/8/14 was a great success, led by Phil with Jim, Bob, Ned Leeming, and Wendy all working on it
- Trail creation
  - o Jim and Wendy have had three separate sessions to work on the trail, and have completed the initial clearing of the trail for the major trail section running from Rt. 110 to the old trail section at the “back” of the property
  - o Phil and Wendy have a session tentatively planned for 9/30 to work on the old trail section, where a chain saw is needed for some tree clearing/removal; one tree may be too large to tackle without additional help
- Need a second bridge at the stream crossing towards Bolton; Wendy and Phil to visit to determine requirements, probably as part of the same planned 9/30 effort
- The trail will need formal marking with blazes

## Bolton-Harvard Walk

- Jim had contacted Carol Gumbart, Conservation Administrator for Bolton, to explore interest and cooperation, getting initial support in response
- Jim had walked the first five miles of the prospective route on 9/20/14, leading to a few modifications of the potential route; Jim brought a revised version of the route map for the meeting
- We selected Sunday, 11/9/14, at 1 PM as our target date and time for the walk
- We hope to offer both a 5- and 7-mile option, and have adequate numbers to lead and cover both, although the diminished daylight at this time may make it difficult to complete the 7-mile route before nightfall
- While it would be great to also include Bolton’s Levison property as part of the route, this probably will not be possible this year
  - o Different alternatives would probably add 2 – 4 miles to the route, which would definitely run into darkness
  - o A possible wood road entry to Levison from East Bare Hill Road exists, making possible a route that includes part of Levison and much less additional mileage, but Pam reports that the wood road is currently impassable and would need to be cleared first
  - o Members of LSS will arrange a site walk to explore the trail possibilities for Levison; tentative date for this site walk is the morning of 10/2

- Jim will update Carol Gumbart and continue to coordinate with her as the point person for Bolton
- Jim will e-mail Marylynn Gentry of the Harvard Conservation Trust to tell her about the planned walk

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM