

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 23, 2019

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell, Pam Durrant

Not Present: Carl Sciple, Jim Burns, John Lee

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting, March 23, 2019, were approved

Spring Walk Recap

- We'd had the good fortune of a very nice day, and everyone enjoyed the walk
- 25 people participated
- Jim A brought up a situation that had occurred on the walk, when one participant decided they shouldn't continue and should return to the beginning. This elderly participant had been on the walk with her daughter, and the daughter agreed with her mother turning back, but wanted to continue on the walk herself and let the mother return to the start alone. Jim A expressed reservations about having a weaker participant separate from the group, but had acquiesced and the mother had gone off, apparently with no ill consequences. However, we concluded that should we encounter such a situation again (there have been similar scenarios with slight variations on two previous walks), we will try if possible to have someone accompany the separating participant.
- We mentioned that Hermann Orchard might be a good place for the Fall Walk, if we can come up with a good approach for group parking and access to the start

Deer Management Subcommittee

- The group will be scheduling talks the 2nd and 4th week of the month

Trail Reports and Activities

- Willard
 - John Lee may help with putting blazes on the Willard Trail
 - Marc Sevigny is working on a map; Wendy has provided Marc with some input
- Vesenska/Black Pond
 - Jo-Anne Crystoff will become part of the Trail Steward group
 - Jim A will give Jo-Anne access to the Trail Status Log
- We need to add tick signs for our properties – Willard is the only property to have a sign so far [Jim's addition post-meeting – if you do put up tick signs, please note it in the Trail Status Log]

Parking Areas

- Wendy indicated that she could use help from anyone who has some mapping familiarity to be able to provide maps to guide DPW on the work to do; Brian is going to look into what application to potentially use to produce the maps
- Peter von Conta will help once the maps are available, particularly on Clapp-Scorgie

Invasives

- Wendy to lead a session, to help train subcommittee members on recognizing invasives and knowing the appropriate treatment
- The session will take place (assuming cooperative weather) on Wednesday, May 1, at 5:30, at Williams Pond
- Sydney and Jim A expressed interest, and Brian and Jim B may want to join as well

Upcoming Events

- Doug Harris will give a talk on June 18th, at the library, on Indian stone formations; the talk is intended for historical commissions, and open to the public
- The 2019 Mass Open Space Conference will occur on April 27th, at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner
- BioBlitz
 - There are a set of activities, with the largest on June 22nd; we did not identify a particular LSS member who would participate
 - BioBlitz had asked for recommendations of properties, and we felt the Brown land at the end of Murray Lane, with walking proximity to Great Elms and Williams, would be a good choice; Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary would be another possibility
- The next Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop will be April 25 – Wendy and Pam planning to go
- The Annual Harvard Environmental Forum will be May 30 – Brian and Sydney planning to go

The next LSS meeting will be 5/28

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM