

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 23, 2019

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

Not Present: Carl Sciple

Guests: John Lee, Peter von Conta

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Graffiti/Paint

- Hoskings Point
 - Based on experiments to date, removing or diminishing paint on rocks will require more heavy-duty mechanical grinding equipment
 - Peter, Wendy, and Brian will work on it on Saturday, 9/27 at 9 AM
- Barba's Point
 - The trail for this area was used, with permission, for a triathlon sponsored by the Lion's Club; however, in preparing for the event, someone used permanent orange paint to mark roots, rocks, and boardwalk, with a very disruptive result
 - According to John Lee, Jen Schoenberg was part of the leadership; John will talk to Jen about their group taking responsibility for the clean-up

Invasives Removal at Community Gardens

- Brian had cut some bittersweet there in 2018
- Will hold a short session to work more on removal, on Sunday, 7/28 at 9:00 AM – Wendy, Brian, and Sydney, and will notify the Gardens in case anyone from their group can join
- Will not take on their water tank effort, except possibly for Jim Burns helping them to get the actual tank

Hoch

- Jim Burns mentioned the little bridge leading over to the Bolton Loop is rotting underneath, unstable, and needs to be fixed
- Jim indicated that he has a plan for fixing it, but will need to secure access, either from the abutting landowner on West Bare Hill Road or from Harris Lane
- Jim will measure the bridge stringers, to be able to get replacements

Addition to Meeting Minutes Format

- Jim Adelson suggested adding a summary of activities since the last meeting, and another summary of action items identified in the meeting, to make these easy to spot without having to dig through the entire Minutes
- [Initial version shown below; seeking any comments/suggestions on the tables, as well as additions or corrections or any items]

Eastview

- John Lee indicated that he mows there once a year, but it will take more frequent mowing if we want to keep it open as a field
- Wendy will ask DPW to mow it twice a year

Willard Trail

- John Lee added blue blazes from the original parking location to the split where one part of the trail returns to Willard Lane

Tick Signs

- Jim Adelson had put tick signs up at Prospect Hill, Pin Hill, Holy Hill, Kaufman, Shaker Spring, Black Pond, Town Forest, and Old Mill
- Wendy will get more nails, and deliver those along with additional tick signs to Jim Burns' barn, letting Jim Adelson know when they are available
- Jim Adelson will put up additional tick signs, including adding one at the upper entry to the Pin Hill property on Depot Road, since there is currently only one at the lower entry

Fall Walk

- Tentatively target Hermann Orchard as the location
- Potential dates 11/3 or 11/10 (no conflict with a Patriots game for either date)
- Potential access via Sean McLaughlin's land, rather than via the Bridle Way

Additional Summer Projects

- Wendy is trying to hire for the work necessary on the fence at the Holy Hill Dancing Grounds
- Peter will organize clean-up work for the Clapp-Scorgie parking lot

BioBlitz – it took place in June, and we plan to discuss the results at our September meeting

Bench Prototype – Peter is working on ideas, and will look to present at the September meeting

Deer Management Subcommittee

- Wendy reported that Paul Willard felt the plan should be brought to Town Meeting
- Wendy indicated that her own feeling was that having the plan presented and discussed at a public hearing of the Conservation Commission would be the best approach
- The general sense at our Land Stewardship Subcommittee meeting, although no vote was taken, was to recommend having it be a ConCom hearing and decision

Trail Corridor Plan

- Harvard Conservation Trust, along with the Sudbury Valley Trustees, is working on a Trail Corridor concept, linking conservation properties with permitted trails on a powerline corridor owned by National Grid to create a route north and south on the east side of Harvard
- HCT/SVT is coming to the town of Harvard for support, in order to utilize the town's liability insurance

Daman

- The Damans have notified Concom and HCT that they are preparing to sell a house lot that cuts into the conservation land they gave to the town about 4 years ago. There is a possibility the land could be protected in collaboration with an interested abutter.
- Wendy to write a letter to Steve Daman, expressing Conservation's view on the land

Turner

- Mr. Turner has indicated interest in selling a piece of land adjacent to Clapp-Scorgie along Turner Lane and contacted Concom
- LSS doesn't know what the development possibilities are for the property

- LSS thinks the portion by the shore of Bare Hill Pond abutting Hoskings Point is worth protecting

Next meetings

- 8/27
- 9/24

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Activities Since The Previous Meeting		
Date	Participants	Activity
	John Lee	Put blue blazes on part of the Willard Trail
	Wendy Sisson	Initial work and experimentation on graffiti removal and best techniques at Hoskings Point
7/14/19	Jim Adelson	Put tick signs up at Prospect Hill, Pin Hill, Holy Hill, Kaufman, Shaker Spring, Black Pond, Town Forest, and Old Mill

Action Items Identified At The Meeting		
Date	Participants	Activity
7/27/19	Wendy Sisson, Peter von Conta, Brian McClain	Working on graffiti removal at Hoskings Point
	John Lee	Talking to Jen Schoenberg about paint clean-up at Barba's point, after the triathlon held there.
7/28/19	Wendy Sisson, Brian McClain, Sydney Blackwell	Invasives removal session at Community Gardens
	Jim Burns	Measure the stringers for the rotting bridge on the Hoch property, to be able to get replacements, and determine the best access for bringing in the materials for the repairs
	Jim Adelson	Add summaries of activities and action items to the Minutes format
	Wendy Sisson	Talk to DPW about mowing twice a year at Eastview
	Wendy Sisson	To get more nails, and deliver those along with tick signs to Jim Burns' barn
	Jim Adelson	To put up additional tick signs once the supplies are available
	Wendy Sisson	Hire a contractor to work on the Holy Hill Dancing Grounds fence
	Peter von Conta	Organize efforts to clean up the Clapp-Scorgie parking area
9/24/19	Peter von Conta	Peter is developing prototype ideas for a bench design, and will present those ideas at our September meeting
	Wendy Sisson	Write letter to Steve Daman expressing Conservation's view on the impact and approach with the newly developed plot on the property