

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 25, 2018

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Brian McClain, Jim Burns, Carl Sciple, Sydney Blackwell, Chris Fitzgerald

Not Present: Pam Durrant, Phil Knoettner

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. at the Hildreth House

Minutes from the previous meeting (6/19/18), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

New Business:

- Phragmites Removal
 - Brian McClain reported that there will be a “pull” of this invasive the following weekend, in the area downstream of the dam on Bare Hill Pond, and Brian asked for help
 - Wendy mentioned that the Suasco-CISMA website has info on getting rid of phragmites <https://cisma-suasco.org/invasive/common-reed/>
 - Because it’s a wetland area, application of herbicides would require permitting
 - For the future, Wendy also suggested that the herbicide could be applied by the firm that LSS is using for other invasive control efforts

Property Reports

- Old Mill
 - Jim A summarized the trail’s difficult condition from a scouting trip done 9/19
 - 30+ trees requiring removal – mostly pine, and some ash
 - Overgrowth in some lesser used sections of the trail
 - Some wet areas, in a wet season like this one
 - Some re-marking required where trees with blazes have fallen
 - Jim A and Jim B to decide on what to do, potentially together with the snowmobile club; options include potentially abandoning a portion of the trail
- Pin Hill
 - Some fallen trees ideally need removal prior to our Fall walk there, although all are easy stepovers
- Prospect Hill/Dean’s Hill
 - Jim B had done some clearing of a blowdown
 - Access from Prospect Hill Rd (referred to as “Newman”) well cleared by DPW
- Clapp-Scorgie
 - There had been some repainting done on blazes, though we don’t know who had done it
 - Wendy was looking at a repeatedly muddy area along Clapp Cove together with her dog Finn when they encountered a coyote who escorted them back off the area.

- Blomfelt
 - Jim B had scouted the trail the weekend of 9/15; he reported just one small blowdown that the snowmobile club will take out
- Shaker Spring House
 - Carl reported that the entry is overgrown with bittersweet; it will take herbicide application to remove it
 - Wendy suggested that perhaps that can be designated for one of the efforts with the current invasives program and contractor
- Millie's Path
 - Reported well cleared by DPW
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Trail through old orchard area was mowed mid-summer
- Hoch
 - Entry needs to be cleared
 - Red pine area probably has some trees down, although it had not been specifically scouted

Fall Walk

- Schedule set for Sunday, 11/4 at 1:00 PM
- Jim A presented a potential route, starting from the soccer field parking on Depot Road, and first looping over Pin Hill, then returning to the start and ascending Dean's Hill, and extending via Prospect Hill trails to Prospect Hill Rd before returning to the start; this route was accepted
- Jim A will look to research the history of the quarry on the property

Run For The Hills (at Prospect Hill 10/21/18)

- We'll look at clearing the trail
- Jim Lee to work on bridging one wet spot
- Need to pull one broken old bridge – Chris Fitzgerald to take a look and suggest a plan

Holy Hill

- Concom allocated \$1,500 for materials to redo the low fence at the Dancing Ground
- Phil K organizing, with Marc Sevigny helping; Wendy contacting Middlesex Fence to complete installation
- Wendy's friend Kevin has redone the sign for the Dancing Ground, which now needs to be mounted (Installed 9/30.)
- Work day for trail clearing – 10/27 10:00

Fall projects

- Signage
 - Tick bite signs to be put up at trail heads per request by BOH; Wendy displayed two potential sizes for the sign, and the group preferred the smaller one
 - Brian posting boundary markers on the new Case land abutting BHWS
 - Jim Burns will post Shaker Reservoir with "Dawn to Dusk" sign; some clearing near road needed for a sign to be visible. Phil completed 5 wooden "Harvard Conservation

Land” signs this summer. DPW is installing 4 and a 5th is on hand for next location where needed. A 6th sign for Hermann Orchard (. . . with Cooperation of the Commonwealth of MA) will need to be installed later this Fall by LSS

- Parking Areas
 - We are working with Ron from DPW to repair/improve some of the areas; Wendy needs to submit a work order to Tim Kilhart.
 - The area for Clapp-Scorgie on Still River Road needs work, and we’re looking for ideas of what would be best here
 - Brian will clear around the Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary parking area on Bolton Road so can be enlarged slightly by regrading
 - Wendy will work on a plan for the Williams property parking area
- Black Pond/Vesenka
 - Carl will be having scouts work on mounting boardwalks on Black Pond/Vesenka in early October
- Pin Hill well cover
 - This project to be taken on by a Boy Scout and his father
 - Jim B or Carl will work with them on the plan
 - The purpose for the cover is safety, so someone isn’t injured at this location
 - The cover should be removable, so it could be taken off for someone to look at this historical feature

Deer Management subcommittee is having its first meeting 9/27

Willard Trail Construction – Possible dates 11/10 or 11/17

Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary – Sylvain Delaney offered to help with this property – Brian to contact

Next meeting will be held October 23rd

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM