

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 30, 2021

Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Peter von Conta, Pam Durrant

Guest: Eve Wittenberg, Conservation Commission

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM as a virtual meeting (recorded)

Minutes from the 10/26/21 meeting, as drafted by Jim A, were approved

Hermann Orchard

- Wendy reported that someone, perhaps John Lee, has been working there, and you can get through but still need to climb over the big oak
- The field has been mowed on the south side, and the trees have been cut back with tree shear on the north side, which has been mowed in both directions, between rows and between trees
- A trail still needs to be put in from Cruft Lane (HCT project on Nestler CR)
- Wendy suggested a walk to determine how to treat it next; to be at 1:00 either 12/5 or 12/12

As information, Rob & Ted Maxant passed along that there may be mowing on the lands near the road to the Oxbow (this is not town conservation land)

Small Nature Trail

- Robin Carlaw, Bill Calderwood, and Gina Ashe did work on the trail, with assistance from a high school group
- Peter had reported the large bridge problem to the Snowmobile Club

Old Mill

- The Snowmobile Club, with Peter's assistance, cleared the major treefall in the Inner Loop of the trail
- Now work can be done to complete the rerouting
- Jim A will create a rough version of the map to display the rerouting, and will suggest kiosk location(s) where the map will be posted

Snowmobile Club

- Fixed a hole in the bridge at Clapp-Scorgie
- Will work on a stretch on the trail to Clapp Cove; there will also be a new 7' bridge in one place on that trail, and they'll raise an existing bridge
- The Conservation Commission will pay for the materials for this work
- Work was done on a tree near Hoskings Point – not sure whether this was done by the Snowmobile Club, and some additional clean-up is still needed at this site

Wendy generally recommended that cleared logs be placed perpendicular to the trail, rather than parallel, so that they don't block the water flow off the trail

Perhaps the type of fill to be tried for the boggy stretch at Clapp-Scorgie could be used for a wet stretch at Holy Hill

Fixed Boardwalks

- Clapp-Scorgie (by Peter)
- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (by Peter)
- Black Pond (by Wendy)

Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

- Peter asked about how you get lumber to the site where the bridge over Bowers Brook needs to be fixed; Wendy replied that you can drive to that point
- This bridge repair is a big project; perhaps we need to hire someone, with Peter to mastermind the design

Chestnut Grove

- No deer predation
- Brian is very glad the saplings were protected with the pipes

Stone Land – Tom Gormley was not at the meeting to report

Powell Land

- Person hired for invasives worked on buckthorn – snipped and applied herbicide to the stump
- Not complete; Scott will have to return next year

Hunting Program

- Signage has been an issue; have to keep these signs off HCT and Harvard Park land and placed where entering town conservation land that will be hunted
- Wendy wrote up a FAQ for the town website

Eagle Scout projects by the Zobbi brothers

- Kiosks – Matt Zobbi
- Tripp Land work – John Zobbi
- Bat boxes – Tom Zobbi

Fall Walk

- Comparatively small group – 11 or 12 people
- Pleasant day and successful walk
- From the informal poll at the start of the walk, non-committee participants heard about the walk from Nextdoor Harvard or a flyer at the library; no participants for this walk found out about it from the postings in the Harvard Press
- For future, let's see if we can try to get HCT distribution as well

Wendy said she was going to send around a video that showed a bear in Littleton (sent right after the meeting)

Next meeting – we'll skip December, and go to 1/25/22

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM