

# HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**July 19, 2022**

**Present:** Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Peter von Conta, Brian McClain

**Guest:** Tom Gormley

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM as a virtual meeting (recorded)

Minutes from the 4/26/22 meeting, and notes from the 5/31/22 meeting (this meeting did not have a quorum, so no decisions were made) as drafted by Jim A, were approved

Wendy commented on how well the Bowers Brook bridge and the boardwalk at Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary had turned out; compliments on the work to Peter, Brian, Tom Gormley, and Tom MacMullin

Clapp Scorgie

- The tick sign has been graffitied
- Wendy gave the scouts a project for moving boardwalks, but the work has not been done yet

No news on additional kiosks being undertaken as a summer project

Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary – the stone culvert is collapsing and water is flowing over trail where it crosses stream and passes into the woods, perhaps we could dig out upstream silt while exposed in this drought to encourage water to pass under

Wendy wrote a letter to the Selectmen on roadside Japanese knotweed management

Bowers Brook Signs

- Wendy showed a couple version of the design
- People liked the second version, with the Harvard Conservation Commission wording changed to black
- If anyone has feedback on the size of the sign – 9”, 10”, or 12” – please pass on to Wendy
- Wendy to work on the positioning of the Nashua Wild & Scenic logo

Chestnut project

- Brian reports sighting 20-25 flowering trees in Harvard and surrounding towns; 5-6 to produce nuts in the next year
- Brian expressed concern over whether they get pollinated by American chestnuts, or by foreign ones – Chinese, Japanese, European
- Metal signs will be used to prevent the trees being damaged by DPW operations
- Brian has been manually watering the orchard, because of the extreme drought
- Potentially, Brian, Wendy, and Tom G to visit the roadside trees the weekend of July 23/24

Haskell Land

- We didn't seed this spring, but that turns out to be fortunate because of the drought
- We plan to use a drill seeder in October
- The hayfield was mowed and baled this past week

- Some in neighborhood objected to the use of RoundUp to kill off weeds in old pumpkin field to prepare for seeding native grasses so they have a chance to get established. More outreach needed to explain rationale of project and practices of cultivation

#### Mowing Schedule

- The meadow on Clapp-Scorgie near the parking lot still needs to get mowed – Wendy to follow up to make that happen

Peter indicates no recent reports of trouble on Trailcare app

#### Stone Land

- Wendy indicated that Town Manager had again proposed to SB to build an athletic field on the Stone land; she added that it would have to be taken out of Conservation for such use. LSS and Concom visited the site together and discussed this a year ago and Concom wrote a letter to the SB stating its opposition to taking the land out of conservation use

Tom G reports that Thurston's Cove looks good; the "beaver fence" is still in place around the tree that a beaver had started to work on

Next meeting will be 8/30

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM