

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 27, 2022

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

Guests: Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido (for Deer Management discussion)

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM as a virtual meeting.

Minutes from the 7/19/22 meeting had been drafted by Jim A. With one modification – change of the word “pollen” to “nuts” in the Chestnut project description – the minutes were approved unanimously.

Trail Reports

- Holy Hill – Wendy had noted a tree down in each of two locations; Wendy will add info on the locations in the TrailCare App
- Generally, there have been some winds and storms this season, so we need to take walks to check on trail status, and to make sure to mark trails clear in the log, as well as to note any maintenance needs.

CPC Application/Invasives Control

- Wendy had submitted the application, for \$26K for two years
- Prospective sites – Dean’s Hill; Shaker Reservoir; Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary; Powell; Williams; phragmites near the outflow of Bare Hill Pond; Stone Land; Maxant Land
- Wendy to present 10/26; Brian to possibly attend
- There was a motion made and seconded to approve the CPC application, which was approved unanimously

Run-for-the-Hills

- Scheduled for October 30th
- Perhaps someone to check closer to the time, to make sure it’s clear; Jim Lee probably will as well

Beaver Deceiver

- Being put in behind the transfer station on the Prospect Hill trail, where there is a causeway; scheduled for 9/29
- Perhaps also need a snowmobile-suitable boardwalk where the detention pond/BMP behind the transfer station releases water across the trail; maybe snowmobile club can help with the work as well, although Clapp Cove area on Clapp-Scorgie would be even higher priority; Wendy and Peter to do conf call with the Snowmobile Club to plan work

Hermann Orchard

- Jim Burns did mowing, greatly improving Bridle Way
- Jim Burns had also cleared the large, fallen double oak
- We may not want to have the south side field mowed this year, and just do peripheral mowing

- Wendy asked for someone to look at the north side effort; Peter was willing, but the issue is where to dispose of trees; perhaps Wendy and Peter to do a walk to reconnoiter
- There are 3 tree-of-heaven/ailanthus trees on the west side of Hermann, and we're trying to get a proposal for their removal

Fall Walk

- November 5 at 1:30, on Holy Hill
- We reviewed Wendy's draft flyer, with only very minor suggested changes
- Wendy had walked it in preparation
- Wendy wanted to take out some white pines, before they get too large; potentially to work on this Saturday 10/15 at 1 PM, meeting at the parking on Ann Lee Road
- We decided that no dogs would be allowed on the walk
- Publicity plan
 - o Brian to post in Nextdoor Harvard
 - o Wendy to check on a HCT email
 - o Jim A to notify Harvard Press
 - o [Not mentioned at the meeting, but Jim A would also be willing to post physical notices at the library and the post office]

Wild and Scenic Map

- Wendy showed a watershed map; there were some challenges understanding it all, and Wendy thought there might be two resolution versions
- We still need to decide on the locations for the Bowers Brook signs

Deer Management (with Bob Douglas and Joe Pulido from the Deer Management Committee)

- Investigating doing two studies
- Camera Study
 - o Breaking areas into sections for study
 - o Cameras record how many bucks, which enable you to infer how many deer there are in the area
 - o Bob suggested possible camera sites – Daman for hunted, Holy Hill for non-hunted, Hermann Orchard for hunted, Prospect Hill for non-hunted
 - o Land Stewardship Subcommittee felt all of these areas were suitable for camera studies, except the north side of Hermann Orchard
- Oak Sentinel Study (to determine deer browse) – we thought a location along Turner Lane would be a good spot
- Potentially add Coke Land as a possibility for hunting?
 - o There are a lot of signs of deer presence at the boundary between the corn field and the trees
 - o Wendy to talk to Jim Pickard, the farmer at the property, to ask if he would allow bow hunting there and to find out when the corn is harvested and mowed
 - o Possible access from Littleton Rd, where there's an entry for farm equipment
 - o Land Stewardship Subcommittee thought this was potentially OK as a hunting area
 - o There is an emphasis on trying to take does; Bob and Jim reported that 75% of the deer taken thus far have been does

- Hunting signage
 - o Hunting in Zone 9 starts October 17th
 - o Signs will be put up at Daman the weekend of 10/1 and 2
 - o Wendy to consult on the best locations for signs, and Brian will fill in when Wendy's away; signs will generally be placed within a property, but right at the entry
 - o We'll try to record placements this year, to ease things for the future
- Bob and Joe asked when Hermann Orchard would be mowed; Wendy said she had put out the word to do it before hunting season

Next meeting – 10/25

The meeting adjourned at 9:30