

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 19, 2016

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Phil Knoettner

Members Not Present: Pam Durrant, Jo Ward, Bob Benson, Jim Burns

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. at the Hildreth House (porch)

Minutes from the previous meeting (6/21/16), as prepared by Jim A, were approved

There was a brief discussion of funding for maintenance projects; more discussion will be needed.

Trail Status Updates

- Bare Hill Sanctuary (Old Orchard field area) – mowed a few days ago
- Clapp-Scorgie (Hoskins Point area)
 - o The fire pit had been closed in, with some cans and broken glass present
 - o There were some signs of burning outside the ring
 - o Unfortunately, there was new graffiti – the letters “ND”
 - o There were a lot of cigarette butts around
 - o There were a number of beer cans in the water, which Wendy will remove
 - o We talked about some possible avenues to try to eliminate/reduce this kind of damage
 - Letter to the Editor at the Harvard Press
 - Put something in Nextdoor Harvard
 - Get and deploy hidden camera(s), to see if we could actually learn something about those who do this
- Old Mill – Phil, Jim A, Brian McClain, and Chris Freshette had done a chain saw work session on the trail on 7/9, removing a lot of trees and also completing some minor reroutes and re-marking unclear sections, improving the trail conditions substantially
- Clapp-Scorgie (muddy section with connecting trail to Willard)
 - o Phil wants to check the re-contouring he’d done, but at the time of a significant rainstorm, and we just haven’t had one!
- Hoch – Phil organized a work session and the trees were cleared; Phil also noted that the bridges are in very good shape

Wendy suggested the idea of trying to attract additional trail clearers who are not chain saw users

- To give others a chance to help if they don’t have chain saw equipment, skills, or inclination
- For some areas that need other kinds of assistance; sections of Prospect Hill might be a possibility
- Perhaps some of these individuals could also go on to be trail monitors/keepers

Wendy showed a new field mowing spreadsheet that she’d constructed and will update

As of the meeting, the tent that had been pitched on Blomfelt was still in place, but Sue Toll was planning to take it down the night of 7/19, and it will go to ConCom to be reclaimed by someone if they want it

Since there's been no further contact about potential Eagle Scout projects helping with the trails, Phil will get in touch with Don Graham

Weed Whacker

- The unit Wendy had previously selected is no longer available on Amazon, with an anticipated arrival in 1-2 months
- Wendy had done research on other possible models
 - o DeWalt has a more heavy duty model that some reviewers really like, but it also is not widely available
 - o Core has a gasless unit that is stronger than Phil's original choice, but from the reviews, it seems somewhat prone to jam, and if it does, it's tough to unjam, and exposes the user to the juices that have accumulated, including potentially poison ivy
 - o Cub Cadet CC-1 model has 2 batteries, had good reviews, and is available at Home Depot; it costs \$300
 - o Wendy will request \$300 from ConCom for a weed whacker at their 7/21 meeting

Prospect Hill/Dean's Hill Workday

- To execute the things observed by Wendy, Phil, and Jim A in a scouting walk taken 7/12
- Slated for a Saturday in September; likely possibilities included 9/10 or 9/17, and members will check their schedules for those days
- Phil will invite some of the chain saw volunteers to help
- We may conceivably hold a fall walk on this property

No meeting planned for August

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM