

HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Land Stewardship Subcommittee

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 31, 2017

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Jim Adelson, Jim Burns, John Lee, Sydney Blackwell, Bill Blackwell, Brian McClain

Members Not Present: Phil Knoettner, Pam Durrant, Jo Ward, Bob Benson

Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. at the Town Hall

Minutes from the previous meeting (12/6/16), as prepared by Jim Adelson, were approved

Property/Trail Reports

- Old Mill
 - o Jim Burns walked it recently, and saw a couple of trees down
 - o Since they're not in the snowmobile section of the trail, and won't get removed by the snowmobile group, Jim Burns and Jim Adelson will coordinate getting them removed
- Powell-Reed-Abbott – had been walked by the Blackwells, and was clear and OK
- Hoch – had been walked by the Blackwells; two trees down near the dam will require chain saw removal
- Clapp-Scorgie
 - o National Grid removed downed wires
 - o The repaired drainage and boardwalks on the section leading to Willard were doing well; there's still some challenge in this section due to the wood chips previously put in by the snowmobile club
 - o We need to remove the old "No Trespassing" sign on the way to Hoskings Point
- Willard – Wendy is planning a walk for Saturday, 2/4 10 AM for preliminary trail planning; Wendy, Pam, and John are planning to go, and Jim Burns may be able to join them

April Walk

- Tentatively planning for Sunday, 4/2 at 1:30 PM
- Continuing with the idea of a vernal pool focus, and potentially getting Matthew Varrell or another person (didn't get name) to talk about this subject
- Considering a walk from Bromfield School to Barber's Point; the Blackwells will look at the area for a possible route and any required clean-up work (hopefully little or none) to be ready for the walk
- As a general comment, we may want to add some shorter walks to the longer ones that we normally have been scheduling; the Barber's Point route may be such an example

Harvard Land Stewardship Website (www.harvardlandstewardship.org)

- It would be nice to get it updated and expanded – the home page article is from 2012
- It would also be nice if it were linked to more easily and obviously by other sites

Trail Maps – We still have the task ahead to capture trail locations digitally with GPS

Roadside Clean-up

- Brian McClain is involved in the planning
- Will start 4/27 and run for four days
- Wendy will think about locations to suggest

Trail Work Day

- We want to interest more people in helping keep trails clear with more minor clean-up, such as removing trailside small white pines
- This will be a clipper/hand saw event, not chain saws
- Look to schedule for late Fall/early Winter

Additional Action Items Identified by Jim Burns

- Well cover for old well on Pin Hill
- Meeting with the chain saw volunteers – Jim to organize
- Jim had charged the weed whacker battery, which we needed over the winter with Phil's lengthy trip

Phil Knoettner Responsibilities Looking for New "Owners"

- Sign-making, with the Trex material and stencils
- Bridge design and construction (DPW has helped with purchasing materials and transporting to sites)

New Signs Needed

- For the recently acquired Mass Ave property

Trail Monitors

- Wendy will expand the list she'd created, to make it complete
- Brian will become the monitor for Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

New Potential Conservation Land

- Sydney Blackwell said she knows of a property owner who may be willing to make a donation
- Sydney to talk to Pam Durrant and Jim Lee, in their roles on the Lands committee for the Harvard Conservation Trust; one or both may already be aware of this

Trail Status Log

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18joYDA5pQhAZ4tWE4GXRrsY9iqrIBL6gSGdnM9Xn5AiA/edit#gid=0>)

- Bill Blackwell had made entries
- Wendy described challenges with the current online reporting system, including her tendency not to record her observations or work, and also difficulty in easily incorporating photos
- Bill Blackwell will look at the log to see if he can identify a better approach for photo handling

Sydney Blackwell asked about potentially developing a policy for handling Native American sites, mounds and any artifacts on Conservation land

Next Meeting – likely Tues., 3/14, Wendy to confirm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM