

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
June 13, 2016
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Pat Lamphere, Betsy Chapek, Laurie Graham, Dan Steinbauer, Daphne Tanis

Absent: Nancy McRae, Peter Hiskes

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed everyone. Karen reviewed the evening's agenda. Top topics would be debrief of Plant Sale and upcoming Ash Tree Members' Workshop conducted by Dan on Saturday, June 19.

Public Comment: No person(s) were present for public comment.

Approval Minutes: May 9, 2016 minutes approved as written.

Discussion:

Plant Sale Debrief

Karen, Betsy, Laurie and Daphne, helped out with Sale. Everyone agreed it was a lot of fun. The UCC did well financially; we made \$382.00. That brings the total UCC accounting to \$2,410.72.

Amy asked is there something we might want to do differently. Karen mentioned we may want to increase prices next year. Betsy suggested we get information to the Gazette sooner. And remind them a few times. Betsy pointed out there were inquiries about blueberries. Pat and Karen thought we should look into pre-ordering, possibly taking orders from the community. Pat said people pay \$25 a bush on Craig's List.

Laurie asked where the plants came from. We received a lot of donations. People dropped plants off the night before and during the morning hours.

Ash Tree Inventory Project

Dan shared a recent inspection he performed at Rick Heh's property. Rick had called Dan with the concern about all his Ash trees dying. On completion Dan surmised he did not have EAB. He thought perhaps it was due to a virus. Possibly Ash Yellows virus. Dan will continue research.

Conversation continued regarding methods for eliminating virus and other tree diseases, such as cutting and chipping. Pat recommended advising The Town on 'chipping methods' and importance of the size of chips created.

Dan discussed the importance of chip size, and offered to talk to the Town about their chipper.

Karen raised concern about the town taking down so many trees along roads for “Sight Distance”. Cutting trees down this time of year can kill the bird fledglings. Dan suggested we should play an advisory role to The Town. Particularly, suggesting *Time of Year* to do the following:

- Brush hog
- Open area mowing
- Bush removal of milk weed
- Road side tree removal
- Removal of invasive species such as Bishops Cloak

Dan suggested having an Information table at the State Park. Canadian campers may be bringing in firewood unknowingly spreading EAB and other diseases.

Ash Tree Inventory Workshop

Meet at 9:00 a.m. on New Road by Town Garage. Bring your tree books, binoculars, cameras, and water.

Projects

Gazebo – Pat mentioned folks are talking about putting up a Gazebo at Moore Park. Pat said it might be a nice project to join forces with the Historical Society.

Land Owner Management – Amy stated we may want to do an education series for Land Owners. Topics may include evasive species, tree disease, and firewood, etc., Amy offered to find a speaker; she will contact COVERTs.

Cranebrook Conservation Signs – Karen and Amy suggested redoing the 3 Cranebrook signs posted at the Gate on Irish Settlement, Fuller road and at the Town Garage. Amy volunteered to remake the 3 signs.

Invasive Species digging – Discussion of digging and removal of Invasive Species around town. Amy and Betsy volunteered to dig at different areas, specifically at the Town Pond area and others where Bishops Cloak has grown.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was moved by Karen and seconded by Pat. The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 6-14-16 **DRAFT**