

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
June 11, 2018
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Nancy McRae, Betsy Chapek, Dan Steinbauer, Amy Golodetz, Laurie Graham, Steven Webster

Absent: Peter Hiskes, Karen McKnight, Pat Lamphere, Daphne Pratt-Tanis

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Amy welcomed all to the meeting and led meeting.

Public Comment: None

Approval Minutes: May 2018 were not reviewed, and will be reviewed during July meeting.

Time: 6:30pm - 7:37pm

Plant Sale Debrief 6/2/18

\$336 profit, new contacts. We did about 7 rounds of plant picks. Some arrived late; emphasize 9am sharp next year.

Betsy will post to FPF as a thank-you for the community.

Reminder of Pat's idea from last year to add bat boxes, pollinator plants and bluebird boxes as an addition to the plant sale.

Amy will ask middle school shop teacher about projects making bat/bird boxes and check with Ryan Oaks to pursue chestnut tree sales in the future.

Invasive Workshop Debrief 6/3/18

About 12 people present, 5 non-conservation commission members, 1 select board member and Trevor Squirrel.

Started with a walk with Ethan Tapper, county forester, to learn about landscape and human influences. Elizabeth Spinney from VT Invasives talked about specific invasives and how to control them. Other than knotweed, we specifically looked at Honeysuckle as a future invasive to tackle. After the walk, the group covered a Japanese Knotweed patch in the upland/meadow area that Ethan previously cut with black plastic and dirt. There are 2 big piles of dirt but not spread over the plastic yet; Nate will spread dirt. Plastic will remain there for 5 years; conservation commission will remove in June 2023.

Upcoming Knotweed/Invasives at Crane Brook Plans

- 1 CC member will check on the covered knotweed area each month in the growing season.
- In August (possibly 18/19th,) the CC will cut back knotweed on the road and Ethan will spray. We are starting to create a plan to get rid of the cut knotweed and bring to disposal in Williston. Amy is going to ask Ethan if we cut on a weekend, how soon he can come to spray.
 - Knotweed is also concern at Moore Park- cuts and hauls for knotweed in both locations? On the work day in August, we may try to do both locations. Kurt Johnson (selectman) helped last year with Moore Park and may willing to bring truck.
- Daphne is working on a write-up for the Gazette about the past Invasives Workshop. Things to include in article: links to resources on invasives. The article may include a reach-out to volunteer groups that could contact us to help.
- Plan a Honeysuckle event at Crane Brook, July 14; borrow weed wrench (Elizabeth Spinney can rent, Amy will call Essex Equipment). The CC may be interested in purchasing a weed wrench for future invasives work. Plan to hang Honeysuckle in trees; get loppers to take it apart; Amy has weedwacker. Elizabeth said that it was recommended to uproot by hand and use weed wrench tool instead of spraying.

Other Items

- Working on the Town Plan. Bring town plan documents for next meeting. Considering an extra CC meeting for town plan. Also, meet with planning commission.
- Emerald Ash Borer Project: (Dan will research what some towns have done; some towns identify health of ash trees by car to get an overview of the health.) Invite tree warden Don Toby for Jericho to talk about Emerald Ash Borer.
- Possible follow-up with Forrest Hammond
- Trail Easement on Jackson Hill Road "school loop" : Outreach to homeowners? Betsy will check in with Brian to find out where we stand within the easement dates. With outreach, we may be able to reinstate this easement.

- Nancy is going to continue working on Crane Brook trails and signage.

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:37pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 9, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall