

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
April 8, 2019
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Betsy Chapek, Dan Steinbauer, Laurie Graham, Peter Hiskes, Pat Lamphere

Absent: Amy Golodetz, Daphne Tanis, Nancy McRae

Guests: Steve Webster

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed and reviewed agenda.

Public Comment: none

Time: 6:32pm -8:09pm

Approval Minutes: Approved with revisions.

Discussion:

Green Up Day, Pat Lamphere:

- Saturday May 4th: 2 Drop-off locations Town Highway Dept. & Underhill Flats Fire Station (no road-side pick up.) Staffed 9am-12pm.
- Pat is not able to drive around to greet walkers and pick up bags that get left behind (most Pat has seen is about 8 one year), check on both drop-off locations, report comes in on Monday. Looking for a volunteer, phone or email needed.
 - **Action Items:** Dan will check on Town Garage, Karen will provide her phone number for questions to Brian's FPF posting. Peter will check Repa Rd., Rt. 15, Laurie will check Poker Hill area. Steve can help where needed.
 - Pat is going to make sure the Green Up Day safety links are on the website.
- UCC could possibly take on more of a role with Green Up Day next year, get in touch with Boy Scouts or other volunteers for the future year.
- Bags/posters come in the week before. Brian will post to FPF.

MMU Volunteer Day, Karen McKnight:

- Friday, May 3
- Karen is contact with group at MMU, Eric Krull. 10 to 12 students for a few hours. Multiple tasks in a close vicinity.
- We need to know if they have a plan for projects.
- **Ideas:**
 - Knotweed clean up. Equipment: rakes, loppers, wheelbarrow. Give educational info. Assemble cut knotweed on tarp/trailer in parking lot. Cut, carry, place on plastic. Cut close to the ground. Do not cut close to water- mark off designated area. (Trailer, Pat's or Peter's small trailer, will take it to Green Mountain Compost on Tuesday.)
 - Town Pond Area
 - Have Green Up Day Bags
 - Clearing brush, firewood with Curt Johnson
 - **Action Items:**
 - Karen will let us know the time they will be at the park.
 - Pat will see if there is a trailer put knotweed in and will be in contact.
 - Peter will use his small trailer as a back-up plan.
 - Karen will contact Curt Johnson.
 - A FPF post to let people know about their service day, and UCC is working with them to clean up the park, cut and dispose of knotweed, Laurie will draft and Brian can post to FPF.

Town Plan Survey

- UCC could create their own survey to send out.

Forest Hero Network/Coverts, Karen McKnight

- Elizabeth Spinney said there will be a second training. Karen offered Underhill as a possible location to host their next training. Karen will follow up with Elizabeth.
- State resources plus Coverts, free to participants with food. Open to 10 people.
- Suggested Underhill for a invasives species grant with Elizabeth Spinney. Next steps would be to create a plan to apply for the grant, possibly in the fall. Karen will follow up tomorrow.
- Coverts training in May, Karen is going on May 18th.

Town Trainings

- Idea to have someone come from the state to meet with all town commissions about how to write a Town Plan that focuses conservation/wildlife corridors.
- Karen has contacted Jens Hawkins-Hilka, Conservation Planner for VT Fish & Wildlife Dept., and he is willing to come for a future training.

Underhill UCC Invasive Species Planning / Brainstorming

Knotweed, Invasive Plants and Insects

- Steve would like to continue to talk about a plan to control knotweed and how to use a trained, volunteer, task force group to monitor, maintain knotweed near Town Hall and in other places, even their own property.
- More research needed to make an official plan, Elizabeth Spinney will help planning this. Karen is in contact.
- Stream bank stabilization concern: Peter mentioned Intervale grows willows specifically for erosion prevention.
- Resources: www.vtinvasives.org
- Other plants to consider in Invasive Species Planning: Honeysuckle, Goutweed, Wild Parsnip, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn , Purple Loosestrife, Spotted Knapweed.
- Invasive Species Plant Inventory: what plants and where.
- Research re eradication and management strategies (with Elizabeth Spinney)
- Managing Volunteers
- Networking with other Conservation Commissions
- Emerald Ash Borer:
 - Dan will use a Town Road Map to continue the Ash Tree inventory for the Emerald Ash Borer plan.
 - Ash Tree Inventory planning on next month's Agenda

Calendar Items

- Arbor Day Conference May 2nd Montpelier
- Coverts Training May 18th
- Compost Workshop at Moore Park May 18th
- Emerald Ash Borer First Detector workshop in Grand Isle, Free, May 18th

Adjournment: 8:09pm

Next Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2019, 6:30pm, Underhill Town Hall