

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
May 9, 2106
Underhill Town Hall

Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Nancy McRae, Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Pat Lamphere, Laurie Graham, Dan Steinbauer, Peter Hiskes

Absent: Betsy Chapek, Daphne Tanis

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

Approval of Minutes: Annual Organization Meeting minutes of April 11, 2016 approved as written.

Green-up Day Debrief

Karen reported the breakfast at the Town Hall was very good and well received. Can it also be offered at the fire station next year? Rubber gloves donated by Gerry Adams much appreciated. Pat reported categories and amounts of trash on Front Porch Forum.

Plant Sale

Blueberry discussion: After comparing prices from Vermont and Michigan nurseries and discussing the risks for the Commission in buying the plants in advance, it was decided for 2016 to concentrate efforts on the Plant Sale itself – advertising and getting a good supply of donated plants. There will be a sign-up at the sale to gauge interest in blueberries for 2017.

Planning and Action Items:

Front Porch Forum posts – this week and again last week of May

Amy – sandwich board signs 3 – 4 days ahead

Advertising with printed cards at Store Co-op and other local sites

Karen check from Ramona for making change, cash box

Copy price lists

Key for Town Hall, June 4

Bulletin board and index cards and markers for Digging Rights

Nancy ask J. Letterman to officiate

Bring reference book

All helpers arrive 8:30 for 9:00 start. Bring plastic bags and boxes to help buyers take plants home

Invasive Species

Dan – Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring season begins soon. Description of how monitoring is done. Anyone is welcome to accompany Dan and learn more about it. Note firewood quarantine and inform others about it.

We decided to make an informal beginning to town road inventory of ash trees by meeting June 18 at 9:00 am to survey Crane Brook Conservation Area for ash trees. The goal is to gather information for an EAB response plan. Karen will email the Commission a save the date reminder and talk to the Selectboard about the idea.

Dan will prepare a review of other towns' EAB response plans for discussion at the June meeting.

Amy – invasive plants: Essex Conservation Committee held a work day at Indian Brook Reservoir to remove buckthorn. Amy was there and reported it was very well attended and effective in just two hours. It was good to connect with another town's volunteers and see what went well and what could be done better.

Act 64 Lamoille Basin Grant for Seymour River Underhill

Peter – the grant is for preliminary work; check with Cambridge Conservation Commission to find out how they've been involved (Peter); write a letter of support? check with Brian Bigelow (Karen); are there other Underhill watersheds that should be studied? Ask Lamoille Planning Commission (Peter).

New Business:

Karen – project idea: clean up Moore Park, rehabilitate the butterfly garden

Karen – potential for an invite to visit The Range to look at wetlands; all of us are interested in going; Karen will follow-up.

Adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: June 13

Submitted by Amy Golodetz 5-12-16 DRAFT