

**MINUTES**  
**Underhill Conservation Commission**  
**May 13, 2019**  
**Underhill Town Hall**

Present: Karen McKnight, Betsy Chapek, Dan Steinbauer, Laurie Graham, Peter Hiskes, Pat Lamphere, Daphne Tanis, Nancy McRae

Absent: Amy Golodetz

Guests: Anton Kelsey, David Demarest, Steve Webster, Seth Friedman, Kurt Johnson

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed and reviewed agenda.

Public Comment: none

Time: 6:30pm

Approval Minutes: April 4/8/19 Approved.

Discussion:

Next Meeting Info:

Conservation/Planning Commission June 13 6pm: Jens Hawkins Hilke on Wildlife.

- No UCC Monday meeting in June, except for Invasive Species Subcommittee

Green Up Day Debrief:

- Town Garage was a popular spot. Fire station needs more signage, they had a small collection, maybe 18 bags.
- Some bags spotted alongside the road. Peter picked up some bags on the side of Rt. 15.
- Next year: Extra bags, food/snacks for lunch at one location, bucket loader. This year was 9am-12pm for collection, next year pushing time back 10am-2pm might be helpful, bright bibs/vests signage for locations like Pleasant Valley or Rt. 15.
- Suggestions: Since the state often picks up litter along state routes, have a list for Green Up Day for places that are already done; go to another location to help pick up.

Anton Kelsey Chairman of Recreation Committee

- How can we utilize town land to promote recreation? Anton visited to find out what is done currently by UCC, what are the goals for town land that may align with recreation committee goals.
- The Recreation Committee focuses on Town Pond activities and maintenance. Room to promote recreation in terms of trails and paths.
- Possible future work day with the Rec. Committee

Crane Brook Conservation District/Trails:

- How can we combine efforts with Rec. Committee to promote or utilize recreation opportunities on Crane Brook conservation land. In 2018, there was maintenance for CBCD trails and bridges.
- This year, markers for the trails, maintenance for bridges and mowing.
- Signage for CBCD: New sign is missing and posts are gone where the trees are cut. Future Signage Ideas: Respect Private Property, Nesting Season/Dog-related signs, trail markers.
- Website: Let town members know it is public land, post CBCD trail maps.
- Parking, possibly before the Town Garage.
- Rules of CBCD: Review the trails ordinance, guidelines to work on with the Rec. Committee.
- Rec. Committee is looking for ways to connect trails with Underhill Central School; easements may help in this connection in recreating this trail.
- David Demarest: Guidelines for this property should have continuity with Trails Committee Handbook

Community Service Day Debrief:

- Monday May 6, 8 MMU high school seniors, arrived at 10am and left at 1:30pm.
- **Next Year:** Additional volunteers and tools, borrow a town truck. Considering purchasing tools for Conservation Committee, including a weed wrench.
- **Action:** Karen will check on burning Japanese Knotweed left in the parking lot of the park.

### Plant Sale Upcoming:

June 1, 2019 9am sharp (we arrive 8:30am)

- Daphne has created a list of Plant Sale tasks.
- **Action:** Peter will reach out to Intervale for willows and The Nature Conservancy for the possibility of Liberty Elms. Dan will contact Farm Between John & Nancy Hayden in Jeffersonville about pollinators and plants, possible future outreach event.
  - FPF & Mtn. Gazette: Nancy
  - Sandwich Board/Posters: Daphne
  - Karen: Cash Box & Change
  - Day Of: Karen, Laurie, Nancy, Peter,
  - Daphne: Update Plant Sale Price Sheet

### Invasive Species Plan:

- Interesting article about knotweed shared by Karen: <https://slate.com/technology/2019/05/japanese-knotweed-invasive-plants.html>
- Steve Webster sent a proposed outline for a Town Invasive Species Plan to UCC. This outline can be found [here](#) (and at [tiny.cc/uccisp](http://tiny.cc/uccisp))
- Short term plan goals are to recruit and integrate with volunteers that want to be a part of eradicating invasives, present the town with the How and Why information on controlling invasives. Including education and resources and input from VTInvasives.org, Elizabeth Spinney and County Forester, Ethan Tapper.
- UCC to coordinate a subcommittee on Invasive Species as well as, in the future, a "Task Force" of town volunteers, Karen has a list of volunteers.
  - Subcommittee: Steve, Karen, Peter, Laurie

### Invasive Species Work Party Potential Dates:

- Crane Brook Trail Check-In: June 8th 9am-12pm. Meet @ Town Garage
  - **Action:** Put on FPF early that week. Put signs up. Invite Rec. Committee. Contact Amy about trailhead signs.

### Other Items:

- Rural Roadside Ash Inventory Tool Guide (with app) and Ash Tree Posters from Dan. Dan will contact about outreach opportunity with Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program.
- Compost Workshop Saturday May 18 10am

Adjournment: 8:24pm

Next Meeting: Invasives Subcommittee on Monday June 10 at 6:30. Conservation/Planning Commission June 13, 6pm.