

**MINUTES**  
**Underhill Conservation Commission**  
**August 8, 2016**  
**Underhill Town Hall**

Present: Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Betsy Chapek, Dan Steinbauer, Daphne Tanis, Laurie Graham, Nancy McRae

Absent: Peter Hiskes, Pat Lamphere

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen reviewed the agenda and welcomed all.

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

Approval Minutes: July 11, 2016 minutes were edited and approved.

*Discussion:*

### **Ash Tree Inventory Project and Planning**

Dan gave an update on the Inventory project.

Overview publicity piece is still being fine-tuned. Other fact bullets are needed. Suggestions included a fact about the purple traps and a statement about the devastation (Millions of trees dead from EAB) in other parts of the country.

Dan needs lure for the specific EAB designed traps. We would like to get the EAB traps up during the month of August when the EAB is most prevalent.

Dan asked for a discussion of which road should be survey next. Daphne and Karen offered Bear Town. Amy and Dan suggested Mountain Road. The group agreed to survey Mountain Road next. Planned Survey Workshops scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. Participants should meet at Casey's Hill parking lot on Mountain Road.

Discussion of survey teams pursued. Dan suggested we could pace instead of use tape measure if folks are confident in pace setting walking. This would save time verses moving and managing tape. Amy will bring measuring tape, surveyors tape, and sharpie. Daphne will bring clipboard, scribes' key, and sample scribing to workshop.

Dan is still waiting on information about the Vermont Tree Steward's Conference planned for October.

### **Brooks and Crane Brook Trail Signage**

Amy gave an update regarding sign quote estimates. Bob Diaco Sign Company has quoted two (2) 18 inch by 32 inch, made of aluminum signs at \$120 each. The signs will look exactly the

same; the only difference is, the signs will be made of aluminum not the original wood. Amy is waiting on another quote from another vendor.

Dan suggested using the square metal 'break-away' signs for the (5) brook signs. It was recommended that the brook signs be printed on both sides. Daphne confirmed the additional brook signs we would like to create identifying area brooks and rivers; Mill Brook, Clay Brook, Browns River and Roaring Brook.

## **COVERTS**

Amy has scheduled a 'Wildlife Habitat Management- COVERTS workshop for September 12<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall, featuring Lisa Sausville as guest speaker. Tentative time: 7 to 8 p.m. Amy will invite Underhill Land Trust and prepare an invitational notice for Front Porch Forum.

## **Range Tour**

Range Tour will be planned in the future. Karen will organize tour and get back to Conservation Commission.

## **Ed Moore Park Clean-up and Invasive species**

Nancy mentioned great article in paper "Trees for Streams" regarding stream clean-up. Nancy will post article or reprint to FPF. Karen suggested getting trees out of Ed Moore Park and having the town take trees to the gravel pit.

Discussion of invasive Knot weed; Karen pointed out that it is growing on Bear Town Road. Dan said it had been identified in the last Tree Survey on New Road. Daphne wanted a clarified description of Knot Weed.

Amy shared her professional knowledge; that Knot Weed actually contaminates the soil around it so that only the Knot Weed can grow. As a result, sometimes removing the soil helps. Different towns have had success by removing Knot Weed, planting Silver Maple trees in its place, and covering 3 square meters of ground around the Maple with plastic. Knot Weed does not like shade. Daphne shared it has really taken off on Irish Settlement Road around the Luce property. UCC members identified other sightings of the invasive species: Mountain Road, Redmond Road and Williston Road.

Betsy, Amy and Karen noted that some individuals continue to voluntarily clean and weed Ed Moore Park. Due to significant activity with upcoming workshops, the UCC agreed to postpone scheduling the Ed Moore Assessment and Cleanup.

## **Black Bear Project**

Daphne confirmed the Project will consist of four things: education, host a “Be Bear Aware” workshop, supplying appropriate brochures at Town Hall and other places around town, and educating the town citizens of the UCC efforts. It is recommended that that we define the UCC’s role in the community. We are not bear biologists. We could recommend steps residents could take that limit Bears on thier property. Should town citizens have a ‘Problem Bear’, they need to call the Game Warden or 911. *A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear.*

Betsy has discussed the project with Sue Morris and shared with UCC members that she is available October 4, 5, or 6 for the workshop. There may be a \$500 donation.

Daphne will contact Forrest Hammond to be speaker. If Mr. Hammond isn’t available, the UCC will schedule Sue Morris. Karen and the others expressed an interest of having the speaker be dynamic and bring props, such as, Bear skins, claws, etc. Daphne will contact Forrest Hammond and get back to UCC with plans going forward.

## *Other*

Daphne mentioned the sighting of an American Bittern (heron family) in her north paddock on Irish Settlement Road. Karen identified a sighting near her property as well. Karen and Daphne shared pictures of the bird with UCC members.

## **Next Ash Tree Inventory Workshops - Saturday 8-13-16 and Saturday 8-20-16**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Mountain Road by Casey’s Hill. Bring your tree books, binoculars, cameras, and water.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was moved by Karen and seconded by Karen. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 8-8-16 **DRAFT dpt**