

Underhill Invasives Task Force Minutes

June 10, 2019, Underhill Town Hall, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

- **In Attendance:**
 - **UCC:** Karen McKnight, Betsy Chapek, Amy Golodetz, Peter Hiskes, Dan Steinbauer
 - **Public:** Karen Neeson, Chris Gluck, Steve Webster
- **Public Comments:**
 - Chris Gluck asked if the UCC was considering the use of glyphosate for Japanese knotweed. She said she (and others) have serious concerns about using glyphosate. At this point, the UCC has made no decisions on how best to manage/control Japanese knotweed and other invasives. Dan pointed out that there were quite a few people at last fall's meeting who said they would help cut knotweed if that would prevent the use of glyphosate. The purpose of the task force is to explore management and control options (such as periodic cutting) and to develop and implement a plan for each invasive species.
- **Goals and Objectives:**
 - The task force drafted the following as a working goal statement:
 - The goal of the Underhill Invasives Task Force is to identify and implement strategies for controlling invasive species in Underhill in order to promote and maintain biodiversity, native flora and fauna, and healthy ecosystems with a focus on riparian habitats.
- **Possible Strategies for the Task Force (Brainstorm):**
 - Research: Collect information and disseminate in a clear way
 - Conduct an inventory of "problem areas"
 - Online survey to ask property owners
 - Create an online map showing the location of invasive species. (Is there an app we can use?)
 - Identify key species to focus on:
 - Japanese knotweed, goutweed, garlic mustard, honeysuckle, wild parsnip
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Education:
 - Provide landowners with educational resources so they can take action on their own land
 - Create a publically accessible online library of information about invasive species
 - Sponsor community educational workshops
 - Hold an "invasive species summer camp" (similar to Jericho Rec camps)
 - Disseminate information at the Jericho Farmer's Market
 - Organize the community to take action and to participate in activities to help us attain our goal
 - Motivate community members to take action
 - Collaborate with nearby communities (e.g., share info re upcoming workshops, possibly hold joint work parties, share success stories, etc.)
 - Fundraising:
 - Raise funds for tools, black plastic, advertising, refreshments/food, workshops, fees to attend workshops/conferences, rental of vehicles to transport materials, etc.
 - **Next steps:**
 - Schedule another Task Force meeting--June 24th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Town Hall
 - **Invite community members (Steve)**
 - Chris has a mailing list of community members, especially those concerned about Glyphosate
 - **Invite folks from Richmond who have been working on invasives**
 - **Reserve a room for the meeting (Steve)**

- Formalize how the Task Force will operate
 - Some members of UCC
 - Community members
- Work Parties
 - Initially focus on knotweed and honeysuckle
 - Dates:
 - Sunday, June 23, 1:00 - 4:00
 - Meet at Town Hall
 - Saturday, July 6, 9:00 - noon
 - Meet at Town Hall
 - Saturday, July 20, 9:00 - noon
 - Meet at Town Hall
 - Tools/materials needed:
 - Weed wrench
 - Loppers
 - Scythes
 - Sickles
 - Iron rakes
 - Hay forks
 - Gloves
 - Plastic bags
 - Trailer/Truck?
 - Need a plan for disposal
 - Send a Google Form to try to get a sense of how many people will attend (Steve)