

**Biodiversity Committee**  
**Minutes January 2012**

**Present:** Alan Saucier (Hanover Conservation Commission), Helene Hickey, Elizabeth Tobiasson, Barbara McIlroy (scribe), Joyce Noll (representing Hanover Garden Club), Vicki Smith (Hanover P&Z staff).

**Minutes:** *Joyce moved and Elizabeth seconded, the October minutes were approved.* NOTE: After the meeting, Helene sent a few minor corrections for the Pipers Lane discussion. The revised October minutes will be re-circulated.

**PR and Education:** We discussed the proposed outline and next steps on the Invasive Education proposal. We need to make some sort of a ‘pitch’ for this project at the gathering of Conservation Commissioners’ meeting, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, sponsored by UVLT. If the project doesn’t fly with the Valley News, maybe we should go for an insert. Problem here is that many folks never look at inserts – they get tossed. Alan wondered if the V/N Sunday issue is correct route, as it often has features of local interest.

What’s the hook we are going to use to make the case? The group felt the series idea should happen. The very first story is why care, what impacts do invasives have. More background with each specific plant; we should note how affecting native habitat at a variety of levels. Alan: Why is there no sense of urgency?

We need to contact people directly who work with the V/N and Northern Woodlands. In getting leads and possible support, Barbara will begin with Chuck Wooster at Northern Woodlands. (maybe Virginia Barlow at Northern Woodlands). Alan will sound the V/N, probably starting with Krista Langlois.

We need to be flexible in coverage. We should pay particular attention to include young people in the stories. Use school kids for projects during the reporting period (with photo opportunities).

**Website for Hanover,** The Biodiversity Committee needs to have links and useful/interesting/attractive layout (if possible) content. Photos, where possible. To get going, we need a small (but temporary) committee – mabe we can start boring then jazz it up after it is established. Brochures of native plants can be included. Need to get minutes to Vicki ... Helen and Elizabeth will help this effort; we will also need help from a few commissioners, probably Alan Saucier. Get materials to Beth Rivard in the P&Z office.

Check out this new Vermont website on invasives: <http://www.vtinvasives.org/> We may be linking to it from town website. This is the product that Pete Helm has been telling us about.

**Hanover Road Crew Training on Invasives** – Think about a workshop in spring (but this is a really busy time for the crew). Barbara will talk to Peter Kulbacki about ideas for when / where. Also talk to Christine Perron (NH DOT, who will talk about best practices) and Doug Cygan

(NH Dept of Agriculture, on rules). We will try to have a date by the Feb 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Biodiversity Committee.

**Workdays for spring:**

Garlic mustard – neighborhood effort as before, mid May. This year should be easier, as many teams are established and we know the drill. Try to fill in a few gaps from last year, like Richmond School.

Tanzi Tract – based on report from Jeannie Kornfeld’s AP Env Studies student inventory, we will need quite a few volunteers to work as least for one half-day to remove the saplings that have grown up since 2008 effort. We have lists from before, and can use other lists.

Holdling Bed – see below

Mink Brook West – Nina and Barbara looked at the entrance. Needs pruning, weeding, fresh woodchips, but first we need to consult with Wm Desch to consult on the several volunteer plants (beech for one). Work at the entrance would probably require a half-day for a few volunteers. For the buckthorn down at big bend in trail, Barbara will contact Prescott Towle about permit and cut stem work to continue effort. Maybe hourly rate is best approach there, sometime in early fall. We would probably need to redo neighbor permission.

Rinker - Steele --- Estimate from Prescott Towle was very high for herbicide work there. Work needs to be done, terrain is difficult to tackle plus maintain. It appears that this is something for the entire Commission to discuss.

King Sanctuary and Hayes Upper Meadow needs to be evaluated for work. The ideal is to develop a management plan for the area, with group of friends and neighbors who will help implement the plan.

**CISMA (Coperative Invasive Species Management Area)** – We will start planning for a meeting sometime in Feb / March Barbara will ask Cynthia Boettner (US F&G at Conte Refuge) about this; try to find date and meeting location. Be thinking of natural allies on this effort. We will need participation of 501.c.3 organizations that might make a ‘home’ for a CISMA. Vicki can help with list of these.

**Trails Day** – The town’s Trails Committee has scheduled work on a mountain bike trail work in Hanover. The AT invasives mapping effort would cover more towns than Hanover. Larry Litten will help us organize this. Date is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Deer Hunt in Trescott Land** (watershed for town’s water supply). We think the Conservation Commission should ask NH F&G for more doe permits for this area. Maybe our region, not just Trescott company lands, needs a fresh look at doe policy.

**Formalized meeting time** – 4:30 is OK as a meeting hour. Vicki will ask Adair Mulligan(Conservancy) and Pete Helm (UVLT) about date preferences. See below for next meeting time.

**OTHER:**

**Conversation with Jeannie Kornfeld:** Jeannie teaches AP Environmental Studies. A draft summary of notes was shared at the biodiversity meeting. Basically her AP Environmental Students might like to do inventory and control plan for invasives on school land(s), once they

take AP exam in early May. The students also observed the high concentration of buckthorn seedlings in Tanzi Tract. She suggested we include Jonathan Brush, director of Plant and Facilities for SAU70 in efforts with the schools.

**Calendar of Ed events** We did not discuss this very much. Subcommittees to work on several fronts, including the education project and website.

**CATV for Wessels, other news.** If we want this event put on video we will have to find our own person to do the work. CATV is short of staff. The tape for program last year on garlic mustard is available, but the other on Rain Garden Workshop is not available (as yet, can't be found).

**March 31<sup>st</sup> CoOp Sustainable Expo:** Larry Litten has invited the Biodiversity Committee to use part of its display for this Expo at the CoOp --- it could also be used at Hanover's May 8th Town Meeting day. This opportunity needs to be in our minds; perhaps the website work will apply here.

**Holding Bed inventory –Hanover NH winter 2011.**

Numbers are close to correct...may be off by a few for the larger counts. Barbara has met with one person who can help with maintenance of the beds (about half day/year). The larger plants should be put to use; some holes could be filled with new seedlings at any time (but should be plants deer don't eat, like beaked hazelnut).

**NEW Holding bed** (plants all installed in 2010):

Winterberry – 60 --- still very small, most have survived. In future, not sure this is a good plant to use since it takes quite a while to establish. However, it does well with wet feet; and, deer don't browse it. It should be ready for transplant after another growing season.

Mountain Ash – 50 – heavily browsed by deer. Have been sprayed with Liquid Fence...these may need a bit of netting to protect them. They started off with enthusiasm, but browse is devastating.

Beaked hazelnut – 1 (found in the Mt Ash section) -- most disappeared in 2010 plant swap. Good plant for forest understory; dry tolerant and resists deer browse.

Wild Raisin – 40 – nicely growing. A little bit of deer browse. Good fall color.

**OLD Holding Bed** -- next to the Garden Club inclosure (plants first installed in 2003 And more added in 2007):

Dogwood: Older large ones -- 10 left over: 4 are alternate leaf. Those remaining are probably silky dogwood and rest went to the plant swap. Several others (4) were distributed in 2010 to Mink Brook entrance this fall to fill in gaps (near substation), two went to the HHS environmental club garden.

Young Dogwood (probably silky) – 8 (most went for plant swap / mink brook restoration)

Bayberry: 40 – these are finally taking off (new in 2010) – some looking quite healthy. These seem OK with wet feet, resist deer browse.

Virginia Rose; about 3 left; suitable only for dry sites (not rain garden). Most went out with plant swap.

Button bush (this is the mystery plant mentioned in earlier inventory) -- large size; looks like 2 / 3 remain --they actually flowered and set seed this year. Deer don't seem to browse.

Viburnums (wild raisin or nannyberry) – large. About 14 large-ish shrubs are left (quite a few went out in plant swap)

**Meeting time changes:** 4:30 works for us. And in particular, it works for Alan Saucier, who (since this meeting) has agreed to chair the Biodiversity Committee. Two other Conservation Commissioners, Ruth Bleyler and Jim Kennedy; are also interested in working with the committee; both of these folks are also keen on biodiversity. The Hanover Conservancy (Adair and Gail) and UVLT (Pete) would prefer we meet later in month, so the meeting will now be on *3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month.*

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 4:30pm, Howe Library Rotary Room** (confirmed)