

**BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES: March 20, 2012**

Present: Nina Banwell, Susan Edwards (Hanover Garden Club), Peter Helm (Upper Valley Land Trust), Helene Hickey, Barbara McIlroy, Gail McPeck (Hanover Conservancy).

Minutes: *The minutes from February 2012 were approved as circulated.*

Education Series: Barbara reported that Alan Saucier had contacted Krista Langlois, at the Valley News and that he sent her our proposal for the Valley News. We will followup with Krista to see how to proceed. [UPDATE: The Valley News is not so keen on a new series, as they get many requests for this sort of thing. Krista's last week at the newspaper is April 3rd. We hope to have a meeting with staff to make the case that our proposal is worthy.]

Rinker Invasive Control– Some of the work for smaller plants can be done this spring. There may be some experimentation with cutting the larger plants and smothering them with plastic bags. The Conservation Commission can decide if/when to hire help in the fall (new fiscal year). The infestation needs to be documented with GPS, for future monitoring, and in case it is determined a permit for pesticide control is needed. Gail suggested that we look to CRREL as a source of volunteers, since Rinker, the donor of that parcel, was an employee there. Barbara will ask director Bert Davis about this. Mountain bike group is another potential source of volunteers. The full proposal will be modified to reflect this committee's comments. This report will be circulated separately and then submitted to the Conservation Commission.

Regional Road Crew Training on Invasives – Barbara has been playing phone tag with Peter Kulbacki on this. [UPDATE: This event will be held in the fall. Details at next meeting.]

Workday Scheduling for Spring: The group outlined a rough calendar for events.

Tanzi Tract: Nina and Helene will organize this event. One workday is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 28, so as not to interfere with Garden Club action later in May. Nina noted that this is also near Earth Day. If another workday is needed, it would be on a weekday in the following week. Perhaps the Mink Brook neighborhood can be informed by Conservancy about this workday.

Mink Brook West – we have shrubs in the holding beds that can be used, if needed here. Existing shrubs need pruning, bed needs to be cleaned up, and fresh wood chips will be spread. If possible, we will push back on invasive shrubs to W of entrance beds. Ideal time is late April. Rinker-Steele Natural Area – Using the plan circulated earlier, there will be hand work and GPS work done this spring. Adair Mulligan has offered to help recruit helpers from the Conservancy's email list. Other help may be available at Kendal. Barbara will contact Tedd Osgood / Betsy

Hayes – The area below the new King Sanctuary needs a good bit of work, as a lot of invasives are still present. We can promote this event (late April- May) with neighbors, and with folks who visit the Etna Library. Barbara will investigate area.

Garlic Mustard Effort: We will schedule/promote the *first two weeks of May* for this town-wide effort. Neighborhood leaders from last year have been contacted. There are a few spots

where leaders don't exist, as yet. This year, students in the 7th Grade biology classes will help us organize a work effort behind that school for the entire neighborhood. Susan Edwards offered to promote the Richmond effort, using the neighborhood list-serve to share information.

Richmond Middle School: Gail reported that a small team (Gail, Helene, Barbara) met to outline what to present in the 9 sections of the 7th grade biology class. This outline was shared with the biodiversity members. A powerpoint presentation will be prepared to use in the classrooms in the week of April 23; at least three volunteers will present this program; we hope to recruit Dartmouth grad student volunteers as well. Information has been shared with the teachers. The students will help to organize a workday after these presentations. A date will be determined on April 2nd, when we meet with teachers and Jeff Evans (a Dartmouth post-doc, expert on this plant). The population needs to be mapped, as we can use that for future monitoring, and we have permission to enter the data in the UNH *iMap* database (this seems to be the standard for NY and VT), but this mapping/GIS work can't be done by students this year.

Holding-Bed Work: When the seedling hazelnut trees arrive, Barbara and Suzanne Hawley will plant these and tidy up the beds, at Hanover's Wastewater Treatment Plant, and spread fresh woodchips on the beds. Vicki has ordered 50 seedlings using the Conservation Commission's Ledyard Bank 'Tree Fund'.

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) news: Barbara and Pete Helm have discussed this topic. Currently, there is no grant funding available for this from the Conte Refuge. Pete will contact Sharon Plumb of the Nature Conservancy in VT, as she may be able to meet with us to discuss other options. It seems clear that a regional coordinator for invasives control would be a big help, in coordinating education, control, restoration efforts amongst towns.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CoOp Expo: Barbara announced that the Larry Litten has urged us to have display at the CoOp Expo, scheduled for March 31st. It didn't seem that we have much to display as yet, although it might be good to have a signup for people who have good invasive plant stories that could be shared in future news articles. We decided that we could coordinate this the Sustainable Hanover / Upper Valley Recycling Committee's display.

UFLT Naturalist Training: Pete Helm reported that the Land Trust will have a series of training sessions, and will inform us when this series will happen.

Website: Biodiversity Committee minutes are now on the town's website, and the Biodiversity page has been activated. We need to have help in posting other information from / about the committee, such as workday calendar.

Next Meeting: April 17, 4:30 pm at Howe Library