

**BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE, Hanover Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes April 17, 2012**

**Present:** Susan Edwards (Hanover Garden Club, Sustainable Hanover), Helene Hickey, Barbara McIlroy, Vicki Smith (Hanover Planning Staff). [*NOTE: School vacation kept the number of attendees down – think about this in future scheduling!*]

**Minutes:** Susan moved and Helene seconded; *The minutes for March 20, 2012 were approved as circulated.*

**Education** Barbara reported that we have a short appointment on Wednesday April 25 with Anne Adams, features editor at the Valley News, to discuss our educational series / outline. We have enough going on with garlic mustard, that at least that topic could be covered this year. John Bouton (Windsor Co forester) will be asked to accompany us, to represent the non-Hanover interest in this.

Also, a lesson about garlic mustard will be presented to the nine sections of seventh grade biology classes at Richmond School on April 23 and 26. Students will also be growing tomato plants to demonstrate the allelopathic effect of garlic mustard and they will help to organize a workday behind the school that is scheduled for May 10 (see below).

**Rinker-Steele Invasive Control** A note was sent to Bert Davis at CRREL, requesting some help at Rinker. The group determined that a member of the Conservation Commission should be involved in setting a work-date for the tract, and suggested that this is one that Alan Saucier might ‘lead’. Others will help with PR and volunteer recruitment, as well as help to gather tools. Vicki will contact Alan and ask about a date for this work. The ideal would be to have this work scheduled for May. The Conservation Commission also needs to review the updated plan for this tract.

**Hanover Road Crew: Training for roadsides invasive BMPs:** Barbara reported that Peter Kulbacki suggested that this be held in the fall when the crew is not so busy. Preliminary enquires have been made about where to hold this event; one suggestion is Dartmouth land on the corner of Grasse Rd and Trescott. Barbara will send Vicki the notes of this and the UNH contact info and Vicki will bring Alan up to date. The ‘ideal’ would be an event held in Hanover for crews in other towns in the Upper Valley; further, workers get training ‘credits’, as it is operated through UNH extension. It might be good to work on this with the Regional Planning Commission to help bring in other towns.

**Workday Scheduling**

Tanzi April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon. Susan will recruit from Garden Club, and since the tract is town land, she will ask Betsy Smith at Town Hall, to see if a request can go out to the official Hanover e-mail notification list-serve. Nina Banwell and Helene Hickey have drafted a letter to the editor, which she and Susan have signed, and will be sent in this week.

Mink Brook West Barbara and Judy Reeve have reviewed the shrub situation at the entrance. A small crew could do the initial work. Members of Garden Club and the old phone-list can be used to recruit volunteers. Barbara will update that list and share with Susan and Nina. We need

to prune, remove some unwanted volunteer shrubs/trees, weed and mulch the beds opposite the upper parking area. [Update: we need to set a date for this work, without counting on help from Judy Reeve]

Rinker See above.

Hayes Field This work needs a Conservation Commissioner to serve as ‘head’, and needs to be scheduled. Adair Mulligan has offered to contact the Conservancy’s list of volunteers who did work for the King Sanctuary last year to help with this event, once a date is set. This work needs to be scheduled. Vicki will contact Ruth Bleyler about helping to ‘chair’ this event, and also John Trummel when date is set, since he is also a neighbor. [Questions: is there an existing management plan for this land? If not, shouldn’t this be done before doing control work? There is a HUGE colony of barberries there, along with shrub honeysuckle and multiflora rose...maybe some herbicide work is in order? Shouldn’t this control work be a part of the overall plan for the Hayes parcel?]

Garlic Mustard Week Barbara reported that several sites have firm dates in the first two weeks of May when the plant should be flowering. Posters and info materials will be shared with leaders. The first two weeks of May are ideal. These sites have dates and will be placed on Biodiversity calendar: Rip Road (MA Cadwallader, May 12), Richmond School (Ginger Wallis, May 10, 3-5). Helene is working to educate her Piper’s Lane neighbors about the problem plants there (which also include serious Autumn Olive infestation). Leaders will be contacted again about dates; we hope to put these on website too.

Holding Bed Work: The hazelnut seedlings will be installed the April 20, since rain is predicted. Work on weeding and mulching the beds will be scheduled in the following week(s).

**CISMA news** – A discussion for the existing Connecticut River Watershed CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) will be held in Turner’s Falls MA (at Conte Refuge HQ), on Tuesday April 24. Barbara will attend and try to get some pointers. All the existing CISMAs are benefiting from a large Pulling Together Grant to help get them ‘off the ground’. It isn’t clear if this is a model for the Upper Valley (two states, many small watersheds), but the coordination of invasive efforts and a regional approach seems like an effective and worth-while goal. It may be that the focus is on aquatic invasives as well as upland ones.

### **Other Business:**

- **Biodiversity Webpage:** Barbara circulated a draft proposal for ‘home’ webpage for the biodiversity committee. She will work with Betsy Smith on how it might be implemented, and share the draft with others on the committee for feedback. [Update: Betsy thinks this is feasible, but will consult with the website staff about a few details] We want a calendar, and a few interesting facts about biodiversity to make the page more useful and interesting.
- **Holding Bed:** the 50 hazelnut plants have been installed; weeding and mulch need to be done at later date. Question for future: should residents who have seriously removed invasive plants (meaning most invasive plants) have the opportunity for plant swap, with a few plants in holding bed? If so, what should be the policy? Several large viburnums need to be moved. Some could go to the Mink Brook West entrance.
- **Policy for town lands:** We need a formal discussion with the Conservation Commission to clarify who should be in ‘charge’ of any needed restoration work. This needs to be a team

thing. Further, if land is protected, then it needs a group to plan its stewardship, otherwise the land will probably be degraded by invasives. The Conservancy has a model of this in the Balch Hill Committee, which has been doing serious restoration work since 2000 – and making slow but steady progress. The Tanzi Tract is another example, but too McIlroy dependent.

**Next Meeting:** June 19, 4:40, Howe Rotary Room. (the earlier September date was ‘tentative’.