

BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Subcommittee of the Hanover Conservation Commission

Minutes: Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Present: Nina Banwell, Andrea Caruso, Susan Edwards (Hanover Garden Club, Sustainable Hanover), Pete Helm (Upper Valley Land Trust), Helene Hickey, Michael Luntner, Barbara McIlroy (scribe), Vicki Smith (Hanover P&Z staff), Elizabeth Tobiasson

Minutes : Moved by Susan and seconded by Nina Banwell, the minutes of April 19, 2012 were approved as circulated.

Work Days for 2012:

Rinker/Steele: Davey Stocken has proposed a workday(s) later in summer. He is working on Eagle Badge. He presented the proposal in June at the Conservation Commission meeting, and proposes to work on both sides of pond and on signage, as a new mountain bike trail has been installed this year. Vicki said the town is waiting for a final proposal.

Passow work at Hayes Farm Park: Boy scout Fletcher presented his proposal for post-eagle leadership project, for three days in July. [agenda item for next meeting]

Update on neighborhood efforts for garlic mustard removal: Barbara ran through the GM spreadsheet. A few holes exist, a few new neighborhoods now have contact person, a few new populations have been discovered. We need to transfer data from a 'word' document to a proper spreadsheet; Michael offered to help with that transfer. And, Michael offered to help submit our data to the state (NH) data-base of invasives (probably using iMap version, which is also used in VT and NY)

Herbicide work for the fall --

Hanover Road Crew training -- While we had no report on a proposal for a specific fall workshop for town road crew, in the interval the NH extension solved this problem. [**Update:** Christine Perron, NH DOT gave workshop for Upper Valley DPW folks on August 14. Helene Hickey attended this workshop for the Biodiversity Committee, and will report at our Sept meeting]

ROW question: Is permission needed to do invasive removal from ROW? Not sure where to find answer to this question.

UVLT – internship == Pete Helm reported that UVLT has the help of an summer intern who is a licensed herbicide applicator. We look forward to a report on how this skill / training was used.

Buck Road neighborhood Garlic Mustard Problem: There was some discussion about control of the source of garlic mustard problem in Buck Rd in that neighborhood. This is a joint effort with Hanover Conservancy and the Land Trust adjoining landowners, working to help gain cooperation and control there. Garlic mustard, knotweed and buckthorn are major problems there; the landscape service may need some education / direction.

Lunter buckthorn experiment– on Faraway Lane – Michael reported his experment using two shallow groves to kill buckthorn and prevent the resprouts so common with just cutting the plant. He described a series of shallow cuts through the cambium: 2” girdle, then a 1” break, and then another 2” girdle seems to do the job of killing buckthorn plant. This might be something to try at Rinker Tract.

Hire a Licensed applicator for Hanover: this is a question for fall discussion [see below report from VT invasives newsletter for September].

Education and Outreach / Region -- Barbara will attend a Lebanon Conservation Commission discussion about invasives initiative, and report at our next meeting on this. Andrea reported on Orford efforts on invasive, where there is also possible interest in coordinated regional efforts in 2013.

Valley News op ed Barbara floated a few ideas about potential for op eds in the Valley NEWS. andrea help – [agenda item for Sept; WE DID GET SOME HELP with this in July – agenda item for Sept]. Andrea offered to work with Barbara on this.

Next meeting: September 18, 4:30 at Howe Library Rotary Room.

OTHER NOTES:

How to distinguish cow parsnip (a native) and giant hogweed (toxic, non-native). These are similar plants, both surprisingly large-scale. Parsnip is large, but hogweed is gigantic. Here is good summary of differences: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html>

From VTinvasives.org September newsletter:

Shrub Honeysuckle control: Cut stem in fall is the most effective treatment for shrub honeysuckle shrubs

[see the newsletter here -- <http://invasiveplantnews.com/2012/07/> or the technical abstract here: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1526-100X.2012.00866.x/abstract>]

US Forest Service Report on Global Warming and effect of invasive plants:

Hemlock wooly adelgid, oriental bittersweet and garlic mustard are just a few of the species that may become more of a problem in Northeastern forests thanks to a changing climate. This report focuses on the broad impacts of climate change in our own backyard is worth a read. [This quote from Sept VTinvasives.org newsletter. For more information about the full report, and to download full report: <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/41165>