

Hanover Biodiversity Committee

Minutes, March 11, 2013

Attendance: Susan Edwards, Helene Hickey, Don Lacey (Lebanon), Michael Lunter, Barbara McIlroy, Gail McPeck, Vicki Smith, Elizabeth Tobiasson

Minutes - The minutes of January 2013 were approved as circulated.

OUTREACH

Regional garlic mustard – The group reviewed the notes from the third (and final) meeting of the ad hoc regional garlic mustard group. There is a schedule for various parts of the educational and control campaign for garlic mustard which includes: op ed, letter to schools (*), a leader's event (4/17), updated garlic mustard handout(*), and guidance for leaders(*) **The starred materials will need review and approval by the Hanover Conservation Commission.** Most materials should be finalized in time for the UVLT April 2 gathering of Conservation Commissions. There are at least 6 towns now that will participate in the regional Garlic Mustard effort to some extent.

Display / School details: Helene and Gail will approach the Ray and Richmond Schools in Hanover. Barbara will approach Jeannie Kornfield at HHS for guidance. We have permission from Mary White at the Howe Library. Elizabeth will investigate the possibility of display at the Etna Library. Elizabeth will contact the Rivendell district.

Website Update: Helene has come up with a list of short quotes to use on the website. Biodiversity members will be asked to choose one. Website work should be ready by April 1st, and Garlic Mustard will be the main focus. It will also include annual reports and a page devoted to the topic of Biodiversity.

Outreach to institutions: The committee spent a good bit of time discussing how to direct a Letter to Dartmouth VP Bill Anderson. **The letter will be submitted to the Conservation Commission for review** and then submittal along with appendix materials pertaining to BMP for invasives control, and factsheets on Garlic Mustard. We request participation in Garlic Mustard challenge this spring.

WORK EFFORTS for 2013

Garlic Mustard – will be pulled in the interval between May 6 and 20th. Experiments using assorted chemical control will happen on the Lebanon Rail Trail in mid April, and possibly on the Dartmouth campus as well.

Other restoration efforts this spring (NOTE: need help from Cons Comm members here):

- Mink Brook entrance needs work– add shrubs, prune, weed, distribute wood chips. We will set date in late May for this, and Susan will try to locate a Garden Club member to lead with pruning
- **Planting installed at Rinker and Hayes. – set workdays and leader for each in when the proper time for transplanting shrubs is determined. WE NEED HELP IN DECIDING THESE DATES.**
- Other invasive removal efforts for summer or fall:
 - Hayes – cut stump work summer, fall?
 - Rinker – Steele – remove large burning bush at Steele – ½ day sometime.

Herbicide – Barbara reported on her chat with Julia Griffin. She tried to make the case that volunteer efforts would go much further if the town had a staff person who is licensed to help with roadside/other. This conversation will continue.

DATES:

March 28: 5:30 pm, *Science Café* – focus on forest pests – Salt Hill Pub, Lebanon

April 2: 7 pm, *Gathering* for Upper Valley Conservation Commissions –WRJ

April 17: 4:30 pm *meeting for neighborhood leaders* from Hanover and region

April 24: 4 -5 pm, *Garlic Mustard talk* by Jeff Evans, Kilton Library, West Lebanon

April 29-May 4 – *displays* about garlic mustard in public spaces Upper Valley

May 6-20 – *garlic mustard work dates* in this interval.

May 14 – *Hanover Town Meettig* – display near entrance to gym. Invite to help with workdays.

Late May: Workday for entrance at Mink Brook. Susan will try to recruit help from Garden Club.

NOTE SURE: Workdays for planting at both Rinker and Hayes (June 10 is latest).

BUDGET and assistance from town:

We will incur some expenses for the garlic mustard effort. We discussed how to approach the Garden Club for assistance; Susan will have this topic added to the agenda for the club's next board meeting. The Conservation Commission won't have any money for educational effort until the new fiscal year (starting July 1). We discussed how to find help with lamination, color printing, dumpster / dump truck help with disposing GM bags...didn't make much progress with this last matter. Several ideas surfaced that will be explored in the next few weeks.

OTHER:

Program on deer management: Barbara will attend a meeting at Harvard Forest on March 19, and try to make a few contacts there, as well as gather information about deer control efforts there. This information might be helpful in planning a deer management program later this year(?). She will also try to pick up information about the Harvard Forest's experience in controlling garlic mustard.

Develop garlic mustard displays: Elizabeth offered to help with this. We meet at 10 am on March 15 at Barbara's house. Don may be able to help on this.

Re-issue the Least Wanted Plants of the Upper Valley – There was some interest in doing this expressed by Jon Bouton (Hartford). The committee discussed this, as well as funding potentials. A small grant would be a BIG help. There would only be a few changes needed for the old version. Maybe this is something to raise at the April 2 meeting for Conservation Commissions, to determine level of interest in doing this. Barbara will discuss April 2 with Pete Helm. Probably a good idea to get a few quotes on doing this work. There are several printers who might be interested, especially if the paper / folding isn't too complicated.

Next Meetings: Tentative: May 13 and September 9, 4 pm Howe Rotary Room. (Not yet confirmed)