

Hanover Biodiversity Committee

Minutes: November 13, 2013

Attendance: Helene Hickey, Michael Lunter, Barbara McIlroy, Vicki Smith, Elizabeth Tobiasson, and Supreet Bauer, a neighbor of Balch Hill. Several high school students observed the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from March 11 were approved as circulated.

New England Stewardship Network Rollout: Michael and Barbara attended the event held in New London on November 12. (Also attended: Pete Helm – UVLT, Adair Mulligan – Hanover Conservancy, and Don Lacey, Nicole Cormen and others from Lebanon). UNH extension has received significant grant funding for three-year process in establishing this network. The first component of the new Network will be a calendar webpage where local groups can post events (training, workdays, education, etc). See <http://www.stewardshipnetworkonline.org/> for current version of the MI group's calendar. All groups can post an event. The thinking is that this will reach other folks who may have interests that align with a particular group. Some concern about poaching volunteers / donors, but it seems the lists are kept fairly private. There was some discussion about sub-regions, and this will be sorted out later on. The structure would help with cross-pollination of trained volunteers with other sorts of projects – such as citizen science events. Many non-profit and government groups were represented by the 40+/- folks at the meeting.

Considerable discussion about

- Volunteers – recruitment, retention, training.
- Attracting young people/ work with schools, etc
- Resource sharing
- Overwhelmed by stewardship efforts
- Mapping / Coordination
- Municipal / regional collaboration opportunities

Workday Reports for 2013: Printed reports for S Esker, Hayes, Rinker-Steele and Mink Brook West were distributed and summarized. Gail had submitted oral (via Barbara) reports on continuing work on Balch Hill work and the Mink Brook East work (which is now in third and final grant-funded year—probably that a new grant proposal is in the works for this area). These projects are in addition to considerable regional work with garlic mustard in May and June and more details on this will be circulated by January.

Outreach / Education: Some discussion about where to put educational efforts in 2014, which will be discussed more fully in January, but some of the ideas were – to have subcommittee re-think how to engage institutions (town, college, private institutions such as Kendal or Hypertherm); the Hanover Garden Club (possible tour of a 'reclaimed' woodland garden, consider replacing invasives at the W Wheelock pocket park); more outreach at community events (such as farmer's markets); and finally what to do with the new website on deer ticks / Lyme Disease (see below).

New Webpage on Deer Ticks/Lyme Disease (and some other factors). Barbara is getting feedback and help with draft new webpage, with many links to information about both ticks and Lyme Disease, as well as other factors that help contribute to this problem (deer, fragmentation, invasive plants are some of the co-factors). Other groups might want to make use of the information. Work is still in progress. This project builds upon the very successful *Ticked Off* meeting that Hanover Conservation

Commission held in September. The site will be posted with a link from the Biodiversity Home webpage. Supreet offered to help with edits, content and final format for this document.

The site should probably be promoted in the spring, when folks start to think about protection from deer ticks. We should be thinking about our target audience(s) on this one.

Planning for 2014:

Garlic Mustard: A discussion of garlic mustard needs to wait until final reports are done and a small subcommittee meets to discuss our successes and problems for 2013 efforts. This meeting will happen in early January, and we hope to have representation from other towns in the Upper Valley.

January Diversity Meeting: much of this meeting will be devoted to planning education/restoration efforts in 2014 [UPDATE: the Hanover Cons Comm has reserved \$300 of its remaining budget for herbicide work on one of the sites where work has been progressing – to be done before end of June – and current fiscal year]

Re-issue / Update the Least Wanted Plants of the Upper Valley flyer: The group wondered if this was really needed, now that there is so much information available on the web. We would need to establish target audience and other groups that would be interested, get estimates of the costs, which towns might be interested. This begins to look like a lot of work – it would need a team to accomplish this.

Other Business:

Herbicide Options for Hanover: Right now, the town only is advertising for a person with license to use herbicide / pesticide for ornamental plants. To use such a license for invasive plants would require a 'B' category license (for brush). The costs for such a license is minimal and insurance is probably covered by the town's comprehensive policy. However if someone has a license in one category (such as ornamental / pest) then this person must test for a different category (say Brush or 'B'), but for a town employee, cost is minimal and there is no additional cost for study materials.

Construction near knotweed: Barbara reported on a request for information about digging a new culvert in midst of knotweed patch. It was noted that the plant will readily resprout from knotweed roots left in the soil, and probably the best policy is to treat such soil as 'toxic waste'. Vicki suggested that it is not our business to recommend policy to other agencies in the town.

Meeting Schedule for 2014:

We should meet monthly for Jan, Feb and March.

After that, workdays in field (as happened in 2013) and then again once in late fall.

Next Meeting: 4:30 pm Jan 23 Howe Library Rotary Room