

Hanover Biodiversity Committee

Minutes: Meeting Thursday, March 27, 2014

Attendance:

Jim Kennedy, Don Lacey, Gail McPeck, Barbara McIlroy, Vicki Smith, Elizabeth Tobiasson

Minutes: Approved the minutes of January 23 2014, noted the Feb 20 NOTES.

Announcements:

- Website on ticks and Lyme Disease goes live! The group felt that the best way to promote this is to tell people to properly protect themselves before going in the woods; stress 'how to be safe' from deer ticks. Pete Helm was worried about frightening folks so they don't want to go outside.
- April 24 4pm – Biodiversity Committee and **Garlic Mustard Muster** for UV folks
- From Jon Bouton, Windsor Co Forester: A Deer browse / Garlic Mustard connection in layperson's language. Includes research out of Cornell (northern forest).
<http://earthsky.org/earth/overgrazing-by-deer-is-changing-the-face-of-u-s-forests>
- Vicki Smith is organizing a panel on Emerald Ash Borer for Lebanon. Date: Monday April 21, 6:30-8:30pm, Kilton Library in West Lebanon.

PLANNING FOR 2014:

Garlic Mustard update Display materials were discussed. Quotes from local printers v on-line printers were discussed. Barbara was directed to see if Gnomon could match the quote from Anything Printed (shop in Woodstock) and can make use of the Biodiversity Fund to cover an initial printing. For initial roll-out of display materials we will use a local printer, but if many more materials are needed we can ask for nominal sum and/or then use on-line printer. It is expected we will have these materials to share with attendees at the GM Muster on April 24. The Garlic Mustard subcommittee will deal with any remaining details. Committee members should read GM Notes #3 (March) for much more detail.

There will be several articles in the newspaper about the effort, one sponsored by Northern Woodlands, and we expect Henry Homeyer to do something about the role for gardeners. Steve Taylor will try to pitch something for the Valley News.

Mowing of the sewer easement is a particular challenge, and the group agreed that we might draft a letter to homeowners who abut these areas, and give them a information about the problem (composting, spread, dumping yard waste on town land). *This letter needs to be approved by the Conservation Commission; a invitation for April 24 event would accompany the letter.* Elizabeth and Barbara will work on this. Some of the affected neighborhoods: Downing - Maple Street – Weatherby, Rip Rod, Brook Road -Mitchell Lane.

Institutions – Campus Planner Joanna Whitcomb reported that the college is now preparing a plan for invasives as a part of its updated Campus Tree Care Plan. Barbara has loaned Dangerous Travelers video, and BPM for Forests and Community Action Programs on invasives from the VT-invasives group. There is a small possibility that some work would happen this spring before graduation. Barbara will send GPS information of known garlic mustard colonies on the campus to Brian Beatty, college arborist. Joanna reported that the "policy in practice" focuses on the 270-acre core campus, with these goals for Dartmouth:

- 1) Does not plant or propagate invasive species;
- 2) Limits the growth and propagation of certain established invasive species in areas around campus (e.g., Norway maples near Sphinx, burning bush adjacent to Steele Hall); and
- 3) Responds quickly to new infestations of invasive species and tries to eliminate them before they establish.

Other restoration plans for spring 2014

Removal of plants in Holding Bed: Jim and Alan Saucier are collecting 2-gallon pots; shrubs will be crammed into pots and mulched to keep them from drying out, to be moved and installed on the day following digging. There are roughly 200 shrubs ready to move. Barbara will send Jim the holding bed inventory. The late spring makes it difficult to set a date for this work; it will be much easier after snow melt to determine depth of frost. Several dates were proposed in late April and early May; we need frost out of the ground, and must move before leaf-out starts. Jim will take care of setting a firm Date for the work somewhat weather related to when ground thaws, but near end of April or early May, to be set by Jim. Jim will work with Vicki on logistics, such as using mulch and opening gate on weekend. We will help recruit volunteers for this work. Barbara will contact Burt Davis to see if CRREL folks can help after work on a Friday, and/or on a Saturday morning.

Rinker / Steele *Some of the wetland shrubs from holding bed will go here.*

Hayes – Flagging done for cut stem work on common buckthorn later in year. This would probably happen in the fall. For spring, Gail has volunteers willing to work on brush-hogging the barberry. She thinks that regular mowing will kill the plants / alternatively, the plants could be sprayed when they sprout (if that could be combined with cut stem work). *Some of the shrubs for uplands could be installed at Hayes, where clumps of habitat shrubs are suitable. Jim will be visiting the site with his class, and will think about this.*

Mink Brook West – Some of the shrubs can go in the entrance planting bed near the parking area. This was restored last fall, and has some major gaps. Since a new entrance to the trail is planned, with handicapped access, some of the shrubs could go near this reconstruction. Some herbicide work might be good for the large honeysuckles (they did not succumb to aerial spray).

Herbicide Budget (until end of June) of \$400 – Jim has the names of two individuals who live fairly nearby and hold the 'B' category of pesticide license. He will give Vicki these contacts, to see if we can engage them this spring, soon after snowmelt. *It might make sense to work on the sewer easement that comes from Weatherby Rd to Mink Brook, as that is where mowing is helping to spread the plants. When that is done, followup by hand pulling might be much easier. This needs approval by Conservation Commission* Vicki says there have many additional complaints about the quantity of poison ivy near the trail, and this might be another use for some of the herbicide funds.

Educational Projects

Working with Schools – The Feb notes on conversation with Jeannie Kornfield at HHS – lists many actions by her students. They will setup and monitor the garlic mustard display and later work to remove invasives on school property. After the AP exam, she expects to have her two Env Studies classes work on our biodivestiy website's section (currently blank) about this concept of biodiversity. Gail reported that both Ray and Richmond schools will host a garlic mustard display, and the Richmond students will again pull garlic mustard on school grounds.

Other:

Garden Tour – Kari Asmus and Rich Howarth, who live next to 3rd Reservoir, removed all invasives near their house about ten years ago, and watched to see what happened. They now have many colonies of wildflowers, after a single bloodroot appeared the year after removal. It is pretty interesting, and this might be part of one of the Hanover Garden Club's tours for this spring/summer.

NEW: Action Plan –

This is a good idea, and we have materials that might be helpful in guiding our thinking. Since it looks as if spring will be busy, the group decided that this is a topic for fall / winter action.

Next Meeting: April 24, 4pm Mayer Room (note change of hour and room for this one)

NOTE: This meeting will coincide with the **Garlic Mustard Muster** which will start at 4:30 that day.