

Biodiversity Subcommittee

Minutes April 8, 2015

Present: Nina Banwell, Doug Brown (UVLT), Courtney Dragiff (Conservancy), Helene Hickey (HGC), Don Lacey (Lebanon CC), Michael Lunter, Barbara McIlroy, Vicki Smith and Elizabeth Tobiasson.

Help with signage: Elizabeth offered to help with any large size signs (done with calligraphy letters on foamboard) for any of our projects. These signs are fairly waterproof too.

Garlic Mustard efforts:

Jason Berard (UVLT) has arranged that several troops of Girl Scouts will come to help pull garlic mustard in/near Mink Brook, on Saturday May 9th in morning and is expecting 75 (+/-) helpers then. Some will work at UVLT and others will move across river to work near Brook Road in Hanover. We will try to launch the Rail Trail initiative in Lebanon and the Girl Brook and Mink Brook West trails in Hanover on the same day, and activate the neighborhood control groups as well (this will be more difficult). The Upper Valley Land Trust will coordinate PR for all of us, run it past others for detail / comment before submitting. Courtney will meet with the Mink Brook Stewardship Committee on April 13 (Howe), and discuss the event and perhaps that committee can also provide assistance on May 9th (or in followup work). Barbara will let Jason know how to contact Willy Black, the neighbor who knows everyone. Neighbors will be encouraged to welcome the scouts, thank them, and perhaps point them to known colonies.

Barbara will see if we can obtain permission to use the Outside Story done by Li Shen, and see it can run in the Valley News this year (since it didn't appear there last year). The article is excellent in explaining the plant's biology and why it is so difficult to control. Ideal if the article could run a week before the May 9th pulling event.

We will make use of some of the existing garlic mustard posters, and Elizabeth offered to make large posters if we need them. The map of known GM colonies could be placed on a large scale Google earth map of the Mink Brook territory; Barbara needs to get GPS to Michael to experiment with this. Don (with help from Mark Goodwin) could do the same for Rail Trail – maybe use push pins to show where we need to work, or where work was done, to help trail users figure out where to help out.

Tanzi Tract:

This is an area where deer browse is surprisingly intense. There is one patch of *Clintonia borealis* (blue-bead lily) that needs protection, along with an explanation for its cage. There will be a small work party prior to workday to identify other plants needing protection (example: trillium, Solomon's seal, other lilies) and also assess the level of buckthorn saplings. The work party should have a few HGC members who live near the Tanzi Tract, who are interested in wildflowers. Ann Henderson, Judy Oxman, Marilyn and Brian Denk are possible helpers for the scouting party.

This is traditionally a workday organized with the Hanover Garden Club. A workday can't conflict with the May 9th garlic mustard pull nor the Garden Club's plant sale (May 18th). A workday on May 2nd would conflict with green-up day. Possible dates are May 2nd or May 25th (does this conflict with any graduation dates?).

We will promote this by Letter to Editor, Calendar for V/ N, Hanover town and other list-serve

and the HGC email notification. Probably should send a 'heads up' soon, with reminder closer to the work day.

Hanover Garden Club:

Notice about workdays: A notice about the Tanzi and town-wide garlic mustard effort will be drafted by Helene, Nina and Barbara, to then be sent by Susan Edwards to HGC members.

Hanover's Deer Website: HGC members may find the page about Deer Resistant Gardening of value, so the new webpages should be listed. There might be a link to this page from the HGC website.

Wildflower effort: We will need to develop a corps of individuals interested in forest understory plants and their conservation. Eventually, we hope to be able to help preserve, restore forest herbaceous plants and monitor for deer browse to detect sign of over-browse. To begin, Helene and others will seek HGC members and others who share this interest.

Dartmouth Update:

Brian Beatty, forester for Dartmouth, has prepared a five-year Invasive Plant Management Plan for the core college campus. The plan identifies garlic mustard as having 'high' priority. Barbara will meet with Brian and several residents of Rip Road area, to look at the garlic mustard in the Girl Brook watershed, and assess both extent and strategy for better control. College land / sewer easement behind the Dartmouth Day Care Center are particularly problematic. Parts of the Girl Brook Trail are also affected, and we hope to have trail users help with pulling there.

Update on Deer Management.

Several Hanover residents attended the March 19th hearing on draft NH Deer Management Plan, held in Claremont. Many made requests for more doe permits, and expressed concern about Lyme Disease. Town Manager Julia Griffin has talked with Glenn Rousseau, head of NH Fish&Game Department, and NHFG will send a few deer experts to help the town plan a managed hunt in the fall.

Other agenda items:

HHS invasives removal: Friday, May 24th is the date for Hanover HS environment activities. This will be the third year where students remove invasive plants on school grounds. Michael Lunter will be the key adult for this year; Kari Asmus will be helper to train students in plant ID and in use of the tools. Barbara will get tools, handouts other supplies to Michael in advance of the workday.

Next Meeting – Fall 2014. Probably mid-September.

NEWS:

1) NEWFS (New England Wild Flower Society) has just released an important new report titled: **State of the Plants**. Deer are a part of the reason for native plant declines; invasives, disturbance, fragmentation, global warming are other causes of their decline.

- exec summary:

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/consERVE/state-of-the-plants-brief.pdf>

- Full report:

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/consERVE/state-of-the-plants-technical-report.pdf>

2) Check out the new Deer Management and Forest Health webpages on the Hanovernh.org website, starting from Biodiversity homepage.