

Hanover Biodiversity Committee

Minutes: April 12, 2011 10 AM – 11:30, Howe Library Rotary Room

Present: Judy Reeve (Hanover Cons Comm, chair), William Desch (guest, Urban Forester for Hanover, DPW), Nina Banwell (Hanover Garden Club), Adair Mulligan (Hanover Cons Council), Amber Boland (UVLT), Larry Litten (Sustainable Hanover), Vicki Smith (Hanover CC), Susan Edwards (Hanover Garden Club), Barbara McIlroy (scribe).

Discussion – Town Landscape Policy The original draft of this proposal was created by Susan, Nina and Barbara, edited by Judy R. William reported that he obtains shrubs from nearby nurseries, from on-line sources as well as Millican; he will make decisions based on what is available and suitable for the site. William observed that industry is now moving from invasives toward more natives. He currently uses about 7 trees that survive urban conditions in the downtown. No major landscaping overhaul is planned for this year, although small changes are possible. Vicki suggested that the policy might also focus on availability, low maintenance, low water considerations. Larry suggested mention of ‘sustainability’ but noted that this may be less obvious than the other considerations that Vicki mentioned. We wondered if we should invite other town committees to endorse this policy. William doesn’t want us to propose anything that leads to a cookie-cutter approach to landscaping, and would prefer something general. The policy would have to go to the Select Board, once we define it clearly. William might be able to use divisions from gardens, and other volunteer assistance. There was discussion of extending the policy statement to address town grounds (like parking areas). Judy will make some repairs to reflect feedback from this discussion, and bring to the Conservation Commission for approval. In the future, it might make sense to have William to attend the ‘annual meeting’ of the Biodiversity Committee, to discuss replacement strategy for the up-coming year.

Minutes from Feb 1, 2011: Spelling correction: Insert an extra **u** in *Ottauquechee* by Adair Mulligan. **Motion to approve by Larry, seconded by Nina, passed unanimously.**

Discussion – Policy / Purpose of Biodiversity Committee –No italics; under membership, replace Dartmouth ‘Outing Club’ with Dartmouth ‘College’, local school district (or SAU70) (in place of ‘local schools’).

Plans for 2011

Workdays - so far as we know

- **UVLT** : During the month of June, UVLT will be working with Hypertherm to take another whack at the invasives under-story at Gateway parcel in Norwich.
- **Cons Commission and Council:** Trails Day work near Mink Brook Saturday, June 4 from 9AM - noon, to create a new path from Brook Road gate to Route 10 (Council and Cons Comm Trails Committee). Some concern about *Hakelia virginiana* (stickseed), which is on the Heritage list of rare plants in the area. This project is approved by the Cons Comm and Council.
- **Hayes Farm Park upper meadow** (Council and Cons Comm) Adair reported that on April 27, 10-3 pm there will be a work day that will include removing invasive plants in the area. Also, a site visit for Thursday April 14 at 1:30 (meet at Etna Library) – with Elmer Brown, to prepare site for Nan/Alan King memorial sanctuary. The Council will flag invasives; volunteers will trim and Elmer Brown’s crew will remove by pulling out with tractor and chain. Vicki has talked with the neighbor Ken Pelton, who is willing to continue with mowing, and help with brush removal around stone wall (but not remove screening with neighbors).
- **Wildflower Inventory on Balch Hill with Alice Schori:** A wildflower inventory/ update for the Balch Hill Management Plan is set for April 29 from 10am-2pm, and the Council will sponsor a wildflower walk there on Mother’s Day on May 8th from 1PM – 3PM.
- **Balch Hill with Prescott Towles** -- Prescott is a licensed herbicide person – we need his help for work on public land and near streams. He will be in town probably in late June to work on three

bittersweet patches on Balch Hill. Barbara will check in with him about working on more than one project. We need to check if there any other projects for this date. Others who might make use of his help -- the woman on Greensboro with a he bittersweet problem (Barbara will check this), UVLT (they have serious knotweed problem), Dartmouth wild chervil colony at golf course (contact Joe Bromell at the golf course – he also needs to see the plant and the garlic mustard patch). There might be other locations where his help might be used. [Addendum: Adair notes that we might need his help with leftovers that couldn't be pulled at the Upper Meadow of Hayes Farm Park]

- **Rinker-Steel** -- Vicki reported that invasive plants are mostly near Route 10 and waterway. One small knotweed clump there. Nina reported that a rebuild of Storrs pond dam, mandated by the state, may affect this property.
- **Garlic Mustard Work Day** – will be scheduled soon after the Garlic Mustard talk on May 18 , from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Barbara will organize. Tentative dates are May 24, 25, 26 in afternoon, say after 3 PM.
- **Mink Brook** – Adair reported that Erhard Frost will lead a tour to evaluate the effect or the 2010 work on the Council's land. And, they plan to continue more control efforts later in the year (probably in fall), mainly for buckthorn, shrub honeysuckle and Japanese knotweed,. They contract with Jeff Taylor of Vegetative Control Services. Replanting with natives will take place next year.
- **Plant Swap** -- Won't happen this year -- plants can grow another year, although they could be used for restoration projects, if necessary.

Outreach:

- **Update for local fact sheets** on garlic mustard, alternative plants, and Autumn Olive have been printed.
- **Deer management** – A survey for Balch Hill neighbors is almost ready for distribution. Adair will inform the Biodiversity committee when it is ready.
- **Garlic Mustard – education session / Control day effort** -- Jeff Evans, a researcher of this plant and who is now in Dartmouth Biology department, has a slide show that demonstrates the properties of this plant and some of control strategies for reducing its spread. The committee decided that Wednesday May 18, 3:30 – 4:45 pm will bring more people. The event is now scheduled for the Howe Library's Mayer Room. We need to inform possible attendees about parking info. Barbara will organize and promote.
- **Display for invasives, for Biodiversity committee** -- Moderator Dan Nelson says that we can put out a display at Town Meeting on May 10th. We will have live samples for the main offenders. We also have a display /signup for the Biodiversity committee. We can see if someone (maybe Athos?) can point this out to audience.
- **Grant for Sustainable Hanover kiosk** Larry reported that the new display can travel around town for assorted events. Biodiversity Committee can have space on this
- **Update for AT invasives inventory** – Larry suggests this activity for an AT invasives update on next year's Trail Day. The old inventory happened in 2006, and only covers the area from Two Mile Road S to Velvet Rocks.
- **Workshop for Large Landowners** - Adair noted that the Advisory group to the Trescott Company is quite aware of their invasive plant problem (noted in a recent NRI for the land) and could use a public meeting about management of invasives of large lands.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Linking Lands Alliance in Vermont: A pamphlet was distributed that explains this project. Amber, who lives in Thetford and has been a part of this initiative, explained how the Alliance was formed and its mission. In NH, in an effort by the NH TNC and the Conte Refuge, there is a private initiative being conducted to conserve tracts of land for wildlife. Town Conservation Commissions in Lyme and

Hanover have offered their support. Vicki noted that Hanover has also worked with Lebanon on Mink Brook Corridor; now that the NRI is done for this area, the town is ready to act in event of a development proposal. The NH Fish & Game Department has prepared a NH Wildlife Action Plan and maps; should there be regional interest in a comprehensive series of maps for our region in NH, we could contact Emily Brunkhurst at NH F&G.

Stewardship Network, located in the mid-west, has a webinar on garlic mustard and other stewardship issues. Website is www.stewardshipnetwork.org where there is a wealth of information. Their monthly webinar is free, held at noon of the 2nd Wednesday of each month (there is a cost for viewing past programs; available to members).

Efforts to produce a manual for the control of invasives:

In VT: Peter Helm reported on an on-going project that the UVLT is doing with Sharon Plumb (VT TNC, also VT Invasive Species Committee) and the VT Land Trust and a VT contract forester. This group is planning a Sept 21 event for landowners of large tracts.

In NH, the Great Bay CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) is working with the NH IPOG (Invasive Plant Outreach Group) and TNC of NH to produce an invasives control manual.

Hypertherm – Jenny Levy (director of Environmental Stewardship) at Hypertherm would like a wildflower / invasive plant walk near their land – we can schedule for a lunch hour. Barbara and one/two others can follow up on this.

Next Meeting: June 7th, 10 am Howe Library Rotary Room (confirmed)