

Hanover Biodiversity Committee (subcommittee of the Conservation Commission)
Minutes, October 11, 2011

Attendance – Elizabeth Tobiasson, Doug McIlroy (representing Conservation Commission), Nina Banwell (Hanover Garden Club), Vicki Smith (Hanover P&Z office), Susan Edwards (Hanover Garden Club), Barbara McIlroy (scribe)

Minutes: June 2011. One change: add UVLT to heroic effort list in the section on Garlic Mustard. *Nina moved and Elizabeth seconded, minutes for June were approved as amended.*

Fall activities:

- Work projects planned for fall:
 - Balch Hill burning bush workday set for Oct 15, with Youth in Action, Barbara will help.
 - Mink Brook west entrance needs tidy up and pruning. To locate volunteers, Nina has old list of helpers (she will share this with Susan) and Susan can use garden club email list. Nina will contact pres Loretta Weitzel to give a heads up/permission, and Susan will use list. Nina will ask William Desch to drop off some wood chips, once date for work is set. **Barbara and Nina will evaluate what needs to happen.**
 - Tanzi walk around this fall to see if it is time for a repeat invasive control (Barbara).
 - Inventory holding bed at wastewater plant (Barbara). Barbara will find helper to weed.

- Dartmouth Report: Barbara met with Tim McNamarra this summer and will meet again in October to discuss control plan for control of garlic mustard at Rivercrest and Wild Chervil at the golf course. The latter plant is of more concern as there is not much in town as yet.
- Lespedeza rotundifolia – Round-headed Bush Clover: NH Natural Heritage (DRED) does not list *L.rotundifolia* as rare or threatened in its 1997 list (though several other close relatives are listed). The plant is found on town property on Mink Brook West near the esker. We should inventory it, and work with DPW mowing program to devise management plan for this plant. Doug will inventory for it, since he found it; it may be outside the mowed area (but near poison ivy patch).
Action: Discussion about mowing policy for winter meeting agenda.
- UNH survey of DPW The survey results and Hanover's response from Peter Kulbacki were examined. There is the opportunity for training under the UNH T2 (Technology Transfer for Road Crews) program, where participants get credit. AND, it is possible to have training set up for this part of the state. Peter K is interested, and it seems like field training session.
Action: Winter agenda – some correspondence in between.
- Kendal invitation – Garden for the Future talk, has been re-tailored for Kendal. To be given on Oct 26 at 7:15 pm. It will be much updated and include the new engineered raingarden at the Black Center.

Educational efforts – this fall / next spring:

- Hanover Planting Policy – Vicki suggested that we back-off on policy, now that some barberry progress has happened. The donation idea can stay in the background, if needed in the future. For the barberry removed (and remaining) at town hall, the draft posters need to be approved by Julia and Peter Kulbacki. We felt that it would be better if we can suggest a next step or small step or two. Nina offered to keep Julia Griffin involved in next steps. The Commission will send William a thank-you note.
- Raingarden: Draft posters were shared with the group. Several suggestions were made to improve them.
- CATV problem. CATV recorded two events; despite requests, edited programs not shown nor available to the best of our knowledge.
- Cons Comm – Vicki suggested that the Conservation Commission take on a larger educational role. This topic is up for discussion at the October Cons Comm meeting. Barbara will send Vicki Hartford educational newsletter.
- What about sponsoring noted speaker about biodiversity This is Vicki's idea. The committee likes this idea. Who is a good speaker? What about the cost? It is possible partner that this might be coordinated with LWV brown bag lunch series in the spring, where this year's topic is lawns.
- PR about escape of burning bush: Since this is a great time to take a good look around for the plant, we will try to have a news release or letter to editor. Barbara will draft something. Perhaps we can partner with Hanover Conservancy on this. Photos will be available from the Oct 15 work day (Gail and Barbara). Another idea from Nina and Susan is to draft a letter to garden club members to nudge them a bit which they will pursue.
- PR campaign for spring – We need a subcommittee. **Action: Take up in winter**
- Hanover Website – There is space for Biodiversity under the Cons Comm's page. **Action: We will form a committee this fall to make this happen** For starters, Nina, Elizabeth and Barbara, plus others -- Betty Heston does the Garden Club website.
- Educational program possible, for area DPWs Need to outline the next step here. Can we take proactive role here, and organize? **This should be on Agenda for winter, with discussion in between now and then.**

Possible work projects for next year.

- Heather Road (off Pipers Lane)– Nina reported that one resident contacted Nina for ID help. The person has been in this house for 25 years. Over time, she became aware of invasive plants everywhere in the neighborhood. Honeysuckle and buckthorn along the road are rampant. This person knows all neighbors who may be interested in 'taking ownership' of the invasives problem, if adequately educated. Vicki noted there is really no formal program as yet for DPW assistance with this sort of thing, invasives in the swales along the road. Elizabeth noted that the neighborhood may be interested in having a demo site at this house. Maybe the Garden Club could help coordinate this eventually. Vicki offered to use town records to share names of owners in the neighborhood, to help with letters getting out. Nina will talk again with the owner to get us some feedback on the suggestion. **Winter agenda item.**
- Are there other such neighborhoods? Wolfboro Rd? **Winter agenda item.**

- Garlic mustard, report / plan for next year – Our experience this past spring shows great promise, and next year it should be much easier to get moving. We lost areas. The hotspot spreadsheet and outline of program will be shared with neighborhood leaders. Good sites, bad sites. PR is critical next time around. **Action: These reports will be shared with neighborhood leaders and biodiversity committee.**
- Reaching / engaging the middle school on the garlic mustard behind the school: Elizabeth offered to contact her neighbor who teaches there, for advice about which teacher(s) might be best to contact, for starters.
- Holding bed – Some of the some of the plants are ready for use. One location where they might go is the entrance bed to Mink Brook West. We need something there that deer won't browse. Mountain Ash has been total failure, due to deer problem at holding bed. Vicki asked about another plant swap. If that happens, it should be held right at the holding bed.
- Return to Tanzi for workday: Barbara will review / inventory conditions this fall at Tanzi, and determine if work day is needed to protect that site.
- Coordination of volunteers We have beginnings of list of volunteers. It isn't clear how to coordinate volunteers amongst organizations. Co-sponsorship could help for larger efforts.
- Inventory on AT, We will update the inventory of invasives (spread sheet and map) on the cross section of town formed by the AT, from CoOp to Lyme border. Larry Litten will coordinate this effort in spring.

Next Meeting: Winter meeting: Tuesday January 10, at 4 PM at the Howe Library's Rotary Room. Time to be confirmed with members / guests.

Resources:

<http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org/documents/NatureConservancyInvasivesLandownerGuideApril2010.pdf>

From Pete Helm:

- A couple of things....First on the garlic mustard. We DID get back to that patch on UVLT grounds and hand-pulled it all. It took a lot longer than we had hoped but it was done and felt good. I haven't been back to see about first year plants.
- Second, we made yet another foray into the buckthorn, honeysuckle, and barberry over at Norwich Gateway with the Hypertherm group. Really amazing what has been accomplished over there. The weed wrench got a GREAT workout. We'll need to stay at it but the education factor is really good. See <http://www.uvlt.org/2011/10/no-pain-no-gain-hypertherm-puts-a-hurtin-on-invasive-species/> for a little write up and links to earlier work. It was a smaller group this time due to predicted weather, but all good just the same.
- Third, the workshop that we helped with in Thetford went really well. The new manual for Invasives Best Management Practices is really great. [not the same as the link above]