

Conservation Commission  
Approved Minutes--October 27, 2014

PRESENT: Farley Brown, June Cook, Joe Houston, Susie Houston, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Rhoda Sweatt

Minutes of September 22, 2014 approved as corrected.

Farley gave an update on the Black River Restoration Project. A hand-gathering, work crew met at the Craftsbury Public House. People came who were interested because they had problems on their land and had experience with knotweed. Used wrenches from state. Farley demonstrated "Pullabeara" wrench, useful for honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Knotweed spreading out. Some beyond Young bridge that needs to be contained.

Diane reported on Ben Copans who spoke about invasive plants. The event was very informative and info should be publicized. The event was not well attended although it was advertised on Front Porch Forum. Some people e-mailed they were out of town.

#### WINTER ACTION PLAN:

Farley reported the electro fishing was done. Reviewing state data, she indicated phosphates were high. She explained Chung/Solomon Property graphs dealing with macroinvertebrate diversity and fish diversity. Presence of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (mayfly, stone fly, and caddis fly) is a sign of healthy river. The ph is high 8.2, whereas upstream it is 7.3 to 7.4. Some sedimentation which could cause phosphorous spike.

River through the Chung/Solomon property is cool, fast moving with nice canopy cover. Nice balance of macroinvertebrate, similar to composition at Cass Brook. Farley noted when you do stream restoration, you can get back to healthy river. Temperature has remained same over last 7 years.

Fish Diversity indicated highest present: steelhead/rainbow trout. State stocks river from Village to Young Bridge. Stocking rainbow trout to get fish in there to get them to grow. Fish are there. Stocking by Creek Road Bridge and Town Garage.

Need to focus on sediment and invasive plants. Report to Select Board at November 11 meeting.

Joe suggested presenting information in winter toward spring and getting mobilized with another presentation. Work on reaching out to landowners and build that into Spring presentation. Work with Select Board on culverts and set up comprehensive plan on working on invasive species. Have definite plan so by next year, we would be ready to do something. Work on a concrete plan and how we are going to go about it.

Bennington used VT Youth Conservation Corp.

#### ACTION PLAN GOALS:

Immediate:

- (1) Re-vegetate town garage area (address first)
- (2) Removal of knotweed (second)

Future:

(1) Mill Village – much larger issue, need group to work on this project

Sedimentation Issue at Young Bridge – need to locate source, need to vegetate, contact Ben (?) about plantings.

Focused on #3 and #7 of “Recommendations and Action Plan”

#3-Erosion by Town Garage- Re-vegetation Project with possible funding from VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, plant willow and other streambank trees – Spring, 2015, (CA Students, Sterling College Students)

#7Mill Village and TH19-Japanese Knotweed

Goal-Stabilize spreading of knotweed downstream. Assist landowners (Ryan, Ramsdell, Fritz, Alexander) in establishing a knotweed eradication plan on their property. Help monitor -Spring, 2015. Develop plan of action for large infestation.

Farley recommended working downstream first before working to source.

Long-Term: Present information to the public in January. Plan for each site and come up with manpower. Seek possible grant.

Specific tasks:

Diane-contact Ben

Farley-contact Perry Thomas or Ann Ingerson about outreach done on Lakeshore rules and regulations

Joe-knotweed disposal container-trailer, bus

Discussion about specifics and intricacies of Lakeshore rules and regulations and felt it best to give resources of where information can be found, rather than attempting to interpret regulations.

Discussion on how to dispose of knotweed and/or other invasives. Options included having a specific place for it—Hatch Brook Road site; storing in large box trailer or old school bus to let it disintegrate, find location where residents can take invasives, consider silo or bunker. Seek Select board help to find a site. Other suggestions: create invasive “specific” days and take to recycling center.

The Commission will meet on Monday, November 24, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Submitted by:

June Pichel Cook, Secretary