

Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes – June 2, 2014

PRESENT: Chair Joe Houston, Farley Brown, June Cook, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn

Chair Joe Houston called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The first order of business was re-organization of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION:

Chair – Joe Houston
Vice Chair/Treasurer – Diane Morgan
Secretary – June Cook

The best practices protocols for town's road crew to minimize spread of invasives were reviewed. Notebooks are being put together by Diane. The notebooks will be given to the road crew and a copy kept in the Town Hall.

Joe will meet with the road crew to review the protocols and get their feedback on how CC can help them, especially in dealing with areas being mowed and ditched. The question of hand harvesting and whether the select board would fund that process was raised. Joe explained knotweed will grow over edges of road fabric. Once established, it will slowly creep out. Moving an infestation from one area to another area is a major concern.

Potential for future consideration: Educating property owners to let them know and help to understand the problem, planning workshops on eradication and disposal

Discussion centered on flagging areas infested with invasives before town mowing begins as well as finding and identifying some of the roads for the road crew. Japanese Knotweed destabilizes and causes erosion to road banks, as well as the riverbank. It was originally introduced as an ornamental.

Marking areas, taking photographs, and starting early to eliminate knotweed just beginning to grow are strategies for consideration.

Farley reported on the \$2,000 grant from Vermont Community Fund. The purpose is to look at streambank destabilization from the Village Center and looking at knotweed movement/infestation on the riverbank. She will begin mapping invasives on the Black River. Some of the funds could be used for purchasing small tools, creating a database at Sterling, fieldwork and reports. The state is interested in the project.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary