

Present: Joe Houston, Farley Brown, Rhoda Sweatt, Elinor Osborne, Diane Morgan

Missing: Burt Stong, Jay Wright, Steve Wright, Annie Volmer

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There were no minutes available from the February meeting so approval of minutes was passed over until the next meeting.

The Commission discussed Town Meeting specifically the table set-up and the survey on invasive species. The consensus opinion was that the table proved very successful with lots of people stopping by to look at information and talk with members sitting there. The survey was not as successful. Diane reported that only 23 surveys out of the 150 copied were returned. Possibly piggy-backing with the Energy Committee caused people to overlook. The results for those surveys we did get back were as follows:

Number of respondents reporting species they think are problems in town:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Giant Hogweed 3 | Japanese Knotweed 14 | Purple Loosestrife 9 | Honeysuckle 9 |
| Yellow Flag iris 1 | Buckthorn 9 | Burning Bush 4 | Bittersweet 6 |
| Garlic Mustard 3 | Goutweed 7 | Barberry 4 | |

Other: Milfoil, Wall Lettuce

17 respondents said they would be interested in an informational program about invasives, 3 said maybe, and 0 said no.

13 respondents said they would be willing to help with an eradication program, 2 said yes on their own property, 4 said no.

Respondents experience with invasives:

- Steve Moffatt has been hired to tackle knotweed problems in the past, it is possible he has a commercial applicator's license.
- Comment urging education for people not to use bittersweet in wreathmaking.
- Jim Flint has botany dendrology background.
- Lots of frustration expressed with hogweed and knotweed.

Comments and other ideas for Conservation Commission:

- Bulk buying of LED lights
- Stream bank stabilization
- Eradicating invasives is impossible, slowing down takes its toll
- Shoreland conservation including a local ordinance
- Pay more attention to Craftsbury conservation issues instead of other towns
- Unconvinced eradication is possible

Following the report of the survey discussion continued on the invasive species education efforts. In an effort to raise awareness and build interest for a presentation a series of posters playing on the idea of a Conservation Commission Most Wanted List was suggested by Joe. These posters would feature a photo of the invasive plant **Wanted: Dead or Alive** followed by a brief bit of information about the plant. Elinor was volunteered to begin working on a template for the posters which would go up around town and change periodically. Following up with the poster series a walk sometime in June or July and a presentation possibly at the Craftsbury Public Library were discussed. Farley is going to reach out to contacts she has received.

Susie Houston reported Northern Rivers Land Trust would like to do an expanded natural history guidebook similar to the one published with the help of Susan Sawyer by the Woodbury Conservation Commission. The seven towns in the trust are Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Wolcott, Walden, Woodbury, and Albany. If we would like to be involved, a member or two of the Conservation Commission would need to attend an organizational meeting on April 16th. Discussion centered around how the book would look, what it would be used for, and what the role of the Commission would be in preparing. Susie said it is very early in the planning stages and there are not answers to all of the questions but , if we want to be involved we need to get a representative to that meeting. Diane moved that the Commission join forces with NRLT in producing the book. Farley seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Joe volunteered to attend the meeting provided that he has returned from Germany as planned by that date.

There was discussion about whether or not the Conservation Commission would like to collaborate with the Energy Committee regarding the disbursement of the "Good Neighbor" payments from Green Mountain Power for the Lowell project. The general sentiment was that it was okay for individuals on the Commission to offer ideas to the Select Board on how the money should be used, but that it is not really in the scope or desire of the Commission as a board to have input on the matter.

The meeting closed with a discussion of the KCW wind project as well as reports on state-level energy issues. With the denial of the last set of appeals, it is the understanding of the Commission that the Town of Craftsbury's case is now finished. We do still remain a party through the life of the project, so if there is an issue further down the road i.e. project runoff affecting Seaver Branch, then the town would still be able to take further action if necessary. It was noted that the Vermont Senate passed a gutted version of their legislation earlier in the day, and Farley passed out an outline of the NVDA Wind Study as well as the most recent draft of the EGSPC recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.