

Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Conservation Commission.

Members present: Tim Fraser, Dan Saulnier, Tamara Butcher, Daphne Klein (alternate)

Members present via zoom: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleveland

Guests present: Gene Hayes, Gary Phillips

Marla opened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes

- Tim noted that the draft June minutes implied no trail work would be done anywhere in the Kinsley Lot until the owner of the adjacent lot had been contacted. This did not accurately reflect the discussion, which was to authorize work on trails within the bounds of Town property. The minutes can be amended by deleting the phrase “Before we build new trails” and capitalizing the next word “Perhaps.”
- Tim made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Dan seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Japanese Knotweed

- Gary Phillips of Philbrick Hill Road came to the meeting to find out what the Town is doing about the Japanese Knotweed spreading along Route 114 and other parts of Town. Since the roots go deep and spread out, and since it can regrow from cut nodules, it is very difficult to eradicate. Roadside mowing seems to be spreading it along much of 114.
- Marla explained that although the Conservation Commission has had general discussions about taking a more proactive approach towards managing invasive species and increasing homeowner awareness, no specific actions have been taken.
- A robust discussion ensued about the difficulties of eradicating the plant, the legal limitations on chemical control, and the competing need for the highway staff to manage vegetation on the side of the road and in ditches.
- A Task Force was created to do some research and develop proposals for action. Emily volunteered to represent the Conservation Commission on the Task Force. Gary Phillips agreed to serve. It was suggested that Pixie Hill be invited to represent the Garden Club. Others reading these minutes, if interested, should contact Marla Binzel or Emily Cleveland. Initial activities for the Task Force may include conducting a physical survey to capture the current state of spread, researching abatement programs in other communities (including Rockingham), investigating the National Database for Invasive Species, and meeting with the Highway Department to better understand their operations.

Town Lots

- The section of trail in Kinsley Lot that may be over the property line into the adjacent lot would be on land belonging to William Sargent of Gilsum, NH. There is some history regarding private and Town access for logging in this area. Marla to reach out to Mr. Sargent.
- Marla has been collecting GPS coordinates of town lots, will soon be sending them to the State.

Collins Park

- It's time to get some work days scheduled. Emily will send around some possible dates, and will try to overlap with events the Historical Society is planning.

Wetlands Filling

- It was reported that a resident of Springfield dumped sand into a wetland on his property to expand a driveway. Whit Smith noticed this in the course of his Town duties, and discussed the matter with the resident. The (unnamed) gentleman removed the sand.

Outreach

- The Yellow Osier Dogwood seedlings continue to grow. Marla will bring them to Family Field Day, along with some invasive species literature, a big sign, and maybe a table. Emily will be at the event to help manage the give-away. Emily will bring a tent and table.
- Marla and Gerry Cooper are on the Watershed Committee of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association. Marla provided a summary of the LSPA's WatershedWise program, designed to educate people about their potential impacts to the lake, even if their property is not waterfront property. Program is modeled on the State's WaterWise program for waterfront property owners.
- Emily had previously offered to pot them up, and Marla to water them. Perhaps Gene Hayes can get involved, too.
- Marla mentioned the seedlings in her write-up for the 2020 Springfield Annual Report, figuring it might reach a different audience than our usual outreach efforts.

Zoning, Planning, and Selectboard Reports

- Select Board reports that the ongoing issue of pallets and other debris on Route 114 by the lake is no longer in the hands of the DES. The DES has forwarded the issue to the NH Attorney General's office.
- Planning Board and Select Board continue to have discussions about the debris piles on the property at the end of Sanborn Hill Road.

Communications and Miscellaneous

- This is the last Zoom meeting of the Conservation Commission (for the current pandemic, anyway).

Correspondence

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by: Dan Saulnier