

Present: Van Webb, Tim Fleury, Mark Reynolds, Terry Mattson, Ginny Gwynn, Barbara Chalmers

Absent: Matt Hurd, Cliff Fields,

Guest: Cheryl Bentley

Those noted above met at Town Hall. The following was discussed:

1. MINUTES

Motion to approve February minutes by Mark, 2nd by Ginny. Tim abstained. Approved unanimously.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark reported little change in accounts, current balance remains \$99K, \$1,615 in Dewey Woods Fund. Amount due from town on change of use tax settled at \$510. Mark to confirm with finance director that funds allocated to expense categories (ie Training, Memberships, etc.) can be shifted to cover category overages, while still remaining within the overall appropriation.

Motion to accept report by Terry, 2nd by Tim, approved unanimously.

Pending: Shift of funds to one consolidated bank account later in year.

3. MAIL

Wetlands Board Applications:

Burkehaven Island dock repairs, letter requiring more information.

Town granted permit for removable harbor dock for police boat.

4. INVOICES None

5. PRESENTATIONS - VISITORS

Wetlands Application: Cheryl Bentley is assisting with an expedited permit application to replace a 30-ft long crumbing stone lake shore wall with a more natural rock slope at Jesanis, 8 Old Norcross Road. Work to be done at low water time. She shared copies of the application and asked for ConCom sign-off, recommended by DES as part of the expedited permit process. **Motion** to sign application by Tim, 2nd by Terry. Approved unanimously.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): Olivia Uyizeye from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission joined the meeting by Zoom. She provided an overview of NRI content and how it is useful for planning and protecting natural resources. Scope of services was discussed and Olivia will send a draft contract for review at the April meeting based on this conversation and her January outline. In response to Ginny's inquiry about a resiliency inventory, Olivia noted that they are relatively new and can include flood potential and high erosion – steep slope zones, for example. Also of interest is land development /current use loss map reflecting changes since 2010 to better understand future growth and development pressure on natural resources. Barbara expressed interest in a cultural and historical resources inventory. This and land development change information would need to be locally researched, either by volunteers or part of the scope of services. Barbara will continue to be Olivia's contact.

Terry will reach out to the Planning Board regarding status of their master plan questionnaire, 2022 master plan update meetings, and advise that NRI proposal is coming.

6. OLD BUSINESS

View Easement: Tim has not met with the view easement land owner, but he and Van met with the Town Manager to review. The town attorney confirmed that Ausbon Sargent, as

conservation easement holder, must be in agreement with any resolution. They are expected to respond within the next month.

Town Forest: A meeting has been scheduled for April 4 with Selectmen, Energy Committee, Chief Cahill, Sewer plant operator Dave Bailey, and ConCom to discuss land use at the Town Forest, including proposed solar panels, proposed police firing range, and future sewer treatment plant needs. Barbara will prepare a map handout with history of land acquisition, town forest designation, and other pertinent information for the meeting. Information from the Energy Committee discussed at February meeting re: requirements for site land preparation, use of herbicides, acreage required, and array cost-benefit analysis is pending. ConCom questions requested by the Energy Com. by our April 6 meeting await the April 4 meeting.

Peer Review Meetings: Mark was unable to make the February meeting, but will attend the March meeting.

Ledge Pond Trails: Hike set for March 16 at 2 PM to walk the proposed route of new trail with Jeremy Turner of MeadowsEnd. Meet at Ledge Pond kiosk at Meadow Brook Road.

Mark reported on recent Con Com Association Lunch and Learn featuring information on funding hiking trail creation and maintenance. There is state and federal funds to compete for. He would like to see a boardwalk or viewing platform for birders at Wendell Marsh.

Trail Markers: **MOTION:** Barbara moved to purchase 250 plastic medium gage yellow with black arrow trail markers for cost not to exceed \$240. 2nd by Ginny, vote unanimous.

Japanese Knotweed Update: Ginny reported she has spoken with Doug Cygan, NH Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Coordinator, who has offered to review Sunapee infestations with the ConCom and set up an eradication test site. Ginny also distributed a knotweed control methods information sheet. All were supportive of this effort. Terry proposed considering other conservation efforts such as pet waste education for ground water protection.

2022 Town Forest Rec Use Data Collection: Terry suggested signs at trailheads explaining the use data collection need with a QR code that could be scanned by a smart photo to register trail use. All thought that was an interesting idea with potential. Terry will further explore ways to accomplish this.

Pending Old Business:

Map of Municipal Sewer – Barbara

ConCom Overview finalization & Review of Draft Rules for Town Forests

7. NEW BUSINESS

Conservation Easement Monitoring: Terry requested that next dates for consultant easement monitoring be posted so others can join the walk and learn about the process. Ginny noted she is an Ausbon Sargent monitor and Terry could join in with their efforts.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM

Next Meeting: April 6 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Chalmers, acting secretary

Attachments: Knotweed Control Methods Information

Control Methods for Japanese knotweed

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food
Douglas Cygan
603-271-3488
doug.cygan@agr.nh.gov

There are two affective methods for controlling Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), henceforth referred to as knotweed. It is advised that you evaluate the site conditions where the knotweed occurs to determine which method is best suited for control. One involves smothering and the other uses herbicide.

Smothering



(PHOTO 1)



(PHOTO 2)



(PHOTO 3)

If you wish to avoid the use of herbicides you may want to try smothering. Not only does it eliminate the need for chemicals, but there are also no soil disturbance/erosion issues. Here are the general guidelines:

1. Allowing the knotweed to grow in the spring without attempting to control it;
2. Cut the knotweed at the base and close to the ground around the first week in June (PHOTO 1) (this helps to weaken the rooting system);
3. Pile the cut stems on an impervious surface such as a tarp, plastic, pavement, etc. so they can dry out (after turning brown the stems can be composted);
4. Apply a layer of mulch, grass clipping or other cushiony material over the sharp cut stems to prevent them from puncturing the plastic (PHOTO 2, an old tarpaulin was used);
5. Cover the entire area with the biggest heavy-duty dark colored plastic (7mil thick), tarp or heavy duty weed fabric you can find. If more than one piece is used make sure to overlap the seams by about 2 feet. Also, make sure the cover material extends at least 5-10 feet beyond the limit of knotweed in all directions (PHOTO 3);
6. Weight the top of the tarp/plastic and seal the edges with rocks, sticks, soil, sand, mulch, wood chips etc. (PHOTO 3). Do not puncture the tarp/plastic as this can allow knotweed stems to survive. If there are any tears or holes, patch them. Covering with wood chips or mulch does several things including improving the visual aesthetics; blocks UV rays from the sun, which photo-degrades plastic; and insulates it from cold temperatures so it doesn't crack.
7. After 5 years the covering material can be removed and the area replanted.

Although this method may take a while, it has been very successful in sensitive areas here in NH.

Foliar Herbicide Treatment



(PHOTO 1)



(PHOTO 2)



(PHOTO 3)

To achieve 95%-100% control in one application, use the following guidelines:

1. Allow the knotweed to grow in the spring without doing any type of management until the first week in June;
2. Cut the knotweed at the base as close to the ground as possible during the first week of June (see PHOTO 1 above and note below);
3. Pile the cut stems on an impervious surface such as a tarp, plastic, pavement, etc. so they can dry out (after turning brown the stems can be composted);
4. Allow the knotweed resprout and again, do not do any management until after flowering, which usually occurs in early to mid September ;
5. Just after flowering (early to mid September) an herbicide application using a 5% solution of a glyphosate based product, such as Roundup, should be applied as a foliar spray using a pump, backpack sprayer or mist blower (PHOTO 2). Apply to thoroughly wet all foliage, but not to the point of runoff.
Read and follow the product label!

If resprouting occurs the following year then a re-treatment will be needed following the above described guidelines (As was the case in PHOTO 3).

Note:

Knotweed is herbaceous (non-woody), so although it may be imposing, the stems cut quite easily and can be done using motorized trimmers with metal blades, or hand tools such as a machete or stout sickle, even loppers and hand pruners work just fine. **Mowing is not recommended** as it can promote the spread of knotweed by moving vegetative propagules to new locations. A properly timed cutting will eliminate the tall canopy and make follow-up operations much easier. The best time to cut is in early June and once in the season is all that's required to weaken the rooting system. The best time to apply herbicides to knotweed is in the fall (September to October) once the flowers have died off. The two primary reasons for waiting are: honeybees voraciously forage on knotweed flowers and by waiting till after flowering the herbicide treatment will not coincide with their activity; and secondly, this is also the time of year when carbohydrates start flowing back down into the rooting system (rhizomes) for over wintering. Glyphosate is the herbicide of choice for controlling knotweed. It is effective, has no soil activity, it is readily available, and somewhat inexpensive.