

## Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

7/12/2021

**Attendance:** Vange Morse, Deb Bixby, Libby Hillhouse, Dave Houston, Bridget Ferrin, Wes Everts

1. Passed meeting notes for 6/7 and 5/3
2. Joining us today is Libby Hillhouse who is interested in seeing what we are all about.
3. We filled in Libby about the forest logging activities scheduled for Rogers Lot and the knotweed which we are hoping to eradicate on the landing before the logging begins. Marcus will be treating the knotweed on the landing in August this summer. Dave discussed the likelihood that the harvesting will be happening this winter and that most of the cuts will be softwood. We are hoping that the logging will be completed so we can start making some trails on the Rogers Lot. Dave suggests that we conclude our study plots of the knotweed in Rogers Lot. We have 5 years of data on well established, dense stands of knotweed from which we've a good indication of what was the best eradication treatment of our plots. Dave thinks that the usefulness is sufficient and Dave will write up and finalize the report.
4. Wes Shared the Vermont Forest Health newsletter and the new EAB map. EAB has been detected on the Groton side of Peacham and in Colchester. Wes says he's getting more calls about it, specifically about blanding on the trees which is caused by woodpecker activity, or can also be natural. Wes brought up Maple Antraxnos, a black fungus on Maple trees which is really common in wet conditions. He's getting a lot of calls about that.

The Ash trees in town are being replaced, as well as the Maple tree by the water spigot and one by the Piano Barn. They have a lot of die back on them. Wes is betting its from damage from when they constructed the green years ago. Dave says that maple trees don't like being buried at all and have shallow roots that are susceptible to pressure damage by vehicles. Wes suggests Red Oak as a replacement. Dave concurs that the Ash trees definitely need to be removed and if there is a plan of replacement that that is important.

Wes doesn't recommend waving the red flag yet about EAB to the townspeople and waiting until we are in the red zone. Keith G. seems to be doing a good job about being proactive about roadside cutting. Usually the idea is, is to harvest the larger Ash before they die because they are dangerous to cut then. And to leave the younger Ash as tree stock.

Dave feels like we might get hit with a huge amount of Ash once these trees start dying. And what is our plan once we have a lot of material to be chipped.? And what about all the trees that are on private property but just outside the 25 foot buffer of the town ROW? Wes commented that and all the Ash that are in the power lines, phone companies ROW etc. are likely to be the future subject of finger pointing at each other to take responsibility.

Bridget was upset that the town highway crew cut her basswood.

5. Kevin from VT ecostudies contacted the group about some Eastern Meadowlark habitat identified on Stanton Road. He asked us if we could reach out to the landowners to make first contact to make them aware of habitat concerns and mowing schedules to promote Meadowlark nesting. Wes will contact Sam and I will contact Karl
6. Wes did some work GPSing some of the trails and wants some input on spots to put on the map. Dave said the original idea with the lean-to was to not make it obvious. There is the Poor Farm foundation and there is an interesting history on that.
7. We need Signage at the road so people know how to get to the town forest, and Dave will ask Dan Wyann about that.
8. Dave Houston officially tendered his resignation to the board after an amazing 20 + yrs of service. Thank you Dave for all your hard work and dedication over the years!
9. August 2<sup>nd</sup> Next meeting date.

