

Danville Conservation Commission Notes

10/2/17

Attendance: Nancy Diefenbach, Richard Diefenbach, Dave Houston, Julie Grenier, Bridget Ferrin-Smith, Keith Gadapee, Matt Langlais

Discussion:

- **VLCT-Vermont League of Cities and Towns** - we learned that we have to post draft meeting minutes within 5 days of meeting.
- Matt Langlais presented on the harvesting of low grade wood in both Rodger Lot and Pumpkin Hill Town Forest.
- Matt said our forest is healthy, Red Pine is healthier than most in the area
- Keith reported a success on his Game of Logging in the Rodger Lot
- Matt shared about the trails made in the Rodger Lot which were not made by the DCC
- Discussed the state of the town forests and possible ideas for how to proceed with harvesting the wood-
- One thought was to include the Danville School in the process of learning about how the school fueled-Sell the chipped wood to the school. Nixed the idea as they only use hardwood.
- A pellet mill will be opening up in Gilman-first year they will be buying low-grade pine
- We should hold off another year on cutting because the forest is healthy and other opportunities could come up
- Another option- girdle the pine to avoid waiting too long so the hardwood regeneration doesn't get tall and lose epinastic control
- **Question:** What kind of operation do we want? Sheer, cable machine, (cut to length is too big)
- Academy has a stewardship program we could utilize to help with taking care of invasives in the forest and other projects
- Matt Langlais suggested that the Japanese knotweed be a project that we take care of soon
- Possible ideas managing Japanese knotweed: black plastic, chemical control (Matt had poor success), persistent brush hog, individual stem technique)
- We spent some time looking at the management plan map

Next Steps-

- Bridget will check out the Phragmites and the spread of buckthorn in the town forest
- If the Buckthorn is abundant it could be part of a project for Academy students ~ Bridget will contact Matt Langlais if there is substantial need
- Think about what to do with the Japanese Knotweed and how we will harvest our forest
- Contact Matt next spring, when we are ready to move forward with a harvesting plan - Matt will start marking wood in the spring
- Matt will write a letter to the Selectboard explaining that we are still waiting for the markets to improve and inform them of our plan for the spring
- Nancy suggested a couple of people get together and work on the Forest Pest Preparedness plan to organize the notes into written form. She will send out an email to ask who is interested in doing this.