

## Danville Conservation Commission Notes - approved

11/6/17

**Attendance:** Nancy Diefenbach, Richard Diefenbach, Dave Houston, Julie Grenier, Tom Forster, Evangelyn Morse, Deb Yonker

### **Discussion:**

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

- Confirmation of herbicide Rodeo and the surfactant used on the phragmites, and review of payment to Calvin Willard. We will not know the effectiveness until next year.
- Discussion of the options Matt Langlais put forward for the harvesting options for the town forests. The ones that we want to girdle are the big ones, wait another year for the mill to get up and running so that our wood will be more marketable.
- Discussion of Knotweed Management. The knotweed is located around the stump dump which has increased over the years. Discussion of Knotweed strategies.
- Perhaps we could set up plots of the knotweed and try different applications as an experiment with the kids to see which application works best
- Tom suggested that he could get students at Stevens School during the school year to do a first cutting in May, then we can all do a second cutting in June, or students can participate in the plot eradication study if we are able to put that together.
- First steps are to go investigate the location of the knotweed and see if it would be a good candidate to split into plots. And we need to know where they plan on dumping next. Need to coordinate with Keith about that.
- Discussion about St.J Academy program currently ongoing and Dave has been working with them at Harveys Hollow, sounds like they won't have time to help with knotweed.
- Discussion of current trails that are accessible and obvious in the Rodger Lot
- Tabling the Forest Pest Preparedness Plan discussion for January Meeting – Julie and Dave spent some time on the plan before the meeting and have a strategy for progress.
- Pennsylvania has had some surviving trees (.01%) out of the swaths of dead ash trees devastated by the EAB. They are now testing the trees for specific genetics which may have given them some resistance to the bug. Discussion of what organizations are doing research.
- VT state has not declared that they will assist with ash hazards and cleanup, leaving the costs for the towns. Discussion of the presentation of the second draft of the tree ordinance to the selectboard and how best to go about it. Tabled by selectboard?
- Discussion of our budget needs for next year. \$500 for invasives, and \$500 for trail development.

### **Next Steps-**

- Nancy is going to get in touch with Matt Langlais to find out when he plans to write his recommendations to the selectboard
- Next meeting will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10AM at Rodger Lot to check out the knotweed for the purpose of flagging the area where the knotweed exists and discussing the capabilities of plotting different areas for eradication. We will also look at the stands where Matt Langlais proposes his forest management operations. Possible discussion of location for placement of the Rodger Lot Town Forest sign which was pulled down years ago.