

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

9/14/2020

Attendance: Vange Morse, Dave Houston, Deb Bixby, Bridget Ferrin, Matt Langlais, Barbara Huibregtse, Brian Henderson

1. Approved meeting notes for August 10th

2. Update on Knotweed chemical application by Redstart Consulting. Markus will be sending a person to spray the plants this Thursday the 17th at noon and advises the public to stay out of that area for 4 hours. Matt said he sent Markus a geo-pdf map which if he opens it in Avenza then it will have geographic information to exactly where the locations are. Matt gave him a description of the groups of knotweed that need to be sprayed. Markus at Redstart is a sort of expert on which chemical application to use. Any follow up needs to happen in the logging trail system once the cut has been done in order to reduce its spread.

3. Approval of Matt's Contract. Dave was happy to see the Emerald Ash borer statements in there. Matt said that he just copied the template that the state uses for their contracts. All agree that it looks good and it should be sent over to the select board to approve. Once the town has seen it, it needs to be mailed it to the purchaser make a date to be signed. Whoever is going to be the one from the town to handle the finances and insurance requirements should be the one to mail it and to reach out to Heath and create the connection between the two parties. Matt can help facilitate that process, but can't get involved in the gathering of insurance certificates or the finances.

Heath's intention is to do it this winter and will likely be ready to close the contract by next June.

4. Brainstorming about the educational stuff we want to get out into the town. They are not cool about Matt promoting the aggregation of people by doing an educational forest walk for example, but it doesn't mean that we couldn't do it. Ideas:

- Virtual Tour of the forest- Dave is worried that they will have lots of questions that nobody can answer because there is nobody there to answer them.
- Virtual tour with a mapping portion. Matt could create a map that has points that correspond with signs in the forest. Using the Avenza app would be way they navigate through to the points.

- Bridget suggests using an app that tracks your location. Every time you take a picture it logs your location and you can have a description. The app is called "We Live" So we could make a fun short video that we could post on the town website and facebook page.
- Dave suggests that we could make a trail to follow with numbered posts corresponding to a number with the description either on a sheet of paper, or online. Or use QR codes.
- Brian pointed out that there isn't much for cell phone reception in that area.
- Avenza does not require cell phone reception. Its able to provide geolocation via sattelites.
- Would we put a map on the Avenza store? Matt: We could provide it through the town website. He already has a Geo PDF that he can send us with the logging trails all mapped out on it.
- What kind of information do we want to highlight? What is the objective, the harvesting? The Natural Communities? Where the money is going to go?
- Bridget: Thinks it is important to people to know how much the logging is going to affect their walking trails, and if the parking is going to affect any of what they are used to. What is the impact for the people who normally use the forest?
- We need information on how long the logging is going to go on to notify people when to stay out of the town forest. Balancing the amount of effort of providing educational materials with the interest of the public is important
- Dave thinks we should focus on the aftermath, unless there is interest for the during, what people what to know is the aftermath and what is going to be there afterwards.

We could also keep people engaged throughout the process by posting photos on our facebook page if people are curious about what is going on.

As far as timing of the cut, the town determines when the ground is frozen enough to start. Heath will probably get in there in November to prep his landing and then start the harvest the first of the year.

We should do a public service announcement on the town website front page and on front porch forum when these events occur.

Dave wonders if all the material from across partridge Rd will be coming across to the one landing, or if there will be a temporary landing across the road (the White and red Pine) There were some old landings on partridge land but Matt felt that just going across it might be better then sharing the landing with the Vast trail. Matt doesn't feel that the distance is unreasonable to bring it across. Its 2500 feet, so it should be no problem.

Action Items:

- Everyone is downloading Avenza, and Matt can send us the Map of the forest with the logging roads that he created and we can use as a template for our educational outreach.
- We will meet at Rogers Lot at 8:30am Sunday morning to try out Avenza and to start making some fun videos and taking pictures of what is important to us to get information out about.

- We will make videos and share them on our facebook page and on the front page of the town website if appropriate. As well as making a Public Service announcement about the harvest start dates.
- We meet again Monday, October 5th
- Vange will be at the Seleboard meeting to present the final Contract and facilitate the next steps.
- Remind Keith about getting in touch with Vast people.