

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

12/7/2020

Attendance: Vange Morse, Dave Houston, Deb Bixby, Barbara Huibregtse, Brian Henderson, Bridget Ferrin-Smith

1. Approved meeting notes for November 2nd.

2. Dave gave us the update about EAB that it is in Peacham. Barb wondered about the Spotted Lantern Fly which attacks different species of trees and is moving east from Pennsylvania. Now it's in NY and Mass and CT, NH and ME. It's about a half inch, plant hopper which affects agricultural crops and forests. It develops in huge numbers. Dave has seen it on Maples, Apple, Plum, grape, Pine.

3. We discussed the current state of our Ash Tree plan. We have identified many Ash trees along just a select number of roads to extrapolate how many are likely along our roadsides in Danville. Now the paint has likely come off of the ones we have marked and the smaller Ash has grown up. Dave expects that we might get the town asking us for guidance. We need to find out if we still have a tree warden as we have heard rumors that Wes said that maybe he wasn't our Warden.

Vange posed the question if we should do some educational outreach about the EAB in the town. Dave pointed out that we need to do a review our EAB plan and we should have another public town meeting about EAB with a field trip to show. Maybe the late spring, we can prepare and make updates.

Brian wondered if the EAB would affect the sale of our Ash sawlogs. Dave says its just going to depend on the rules of that time. But they should be able to be moved and processed within the infested area that the state has developed. And there's not that much Ash in that forest but it will affect the area in that it's the area we designated to take the Ash that has been cut down. It should lead to efforts to cut down the Ash where our trail system is in the Pumpkin Hill area so they don't fall on people.

3. The Water Andric. What to do with the road? We heard the town was thinking about talking to us about it if they decide to make it a trail. A lot of people use it as a trail even from outside town. It's also a good trout stream. Make a community volunteer project connected with doing a water quality survey there with Ben Copans. Bridget would be in favor of the

Conservation Commission getting involved in river restoration and tree planting and trail conserving.

How interested is the town for trail development and maintenance? Dave mentioned that usually the town covers the liability for the trails if there is a right of way. If they decide to take it out from being a class 4 road then it reverts to the landowners and nobody could use it. Bridget points out that there may be only two landowners who own land abutting the Water Andric.

If the Class 4 is thrown up, then the landowners on either side own half the road. If that happens what would be a possibility to create a ROW along the stream. Would they be interested in creating that for public access to create a trail system? Dave says that the town has been reluctant to throw up roads even ones that they have abandoned.

Bridget says that even the road needs work to reverse the erosional damage and if we get involved we could come up with a plan for restoration.

Dave suggested to get the Passumpsic Land trust involved. They were the ones to get the ROW around Keiser pond, and it was a pretty big deal. Dave's thinking that the Water Andric flows into the Passumpsic. They might have some suggestions on what would be the best actions to take. Kelly Merrill had once been involved in the Passumpsic Land Trust.

Brian says we should review the Selectboard minutes to see what if they have come to a determination about it.

Action items:

Vange - Write a query to the Selectboard to see what the fate is of the water Andric. And contact Wes.

Deb is going to contact Keith to make sure he knows that the logging isn't going on this year.

Set January 4th for our next meeting.

Next meeting: December 7th.

