

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

4/5/2021

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

1. Approved minutes from March 1st.
2. Introduced Jerry from the Conservation Commission of Hardwick. He says right now their group have been doing some tree husbandry. His is interested in getting some information out on the EAB in the Rural Ramblings publication of Harwick. They are meeting on the 20th and will bring up the topic. Not sure what the commitment of the group will be. He likes the idea of IDing the trees and marking the trees and letting people know what to do. Dave suggests checking out the EAB plan, which Jerry says that he has done.
3. Brian wonders if all of the Ash trees are dying. Dave says that there's 1percent that have survived. And Dave isn't sure if they have resistance or if they just got missed. 99 percent of mortality is pretty bad.
4. Jerry asks if EAB was kept in check in its native Asia. Dave said in Asia there is a bit of resistance there to the EAB because they evolved together along with predators like the wasp and native competitors. There are some bright spots in the US like the woodpeckers that have been finding and killing the pupae. Which is one of the ways that we can see the invasion called "blonding" which is happening by the activity of the woodpeckers pecking away at the wood and often happens high up in the trees. So we have to look up high to see if the bark has been removed. Its one of the first indications.
5. Discussions on encouraging people to look for it. First identify the ash and then look for blonding. Searching for a video online to see if we can find something. Michigan University is looking into it and New York. State university in New York. Cornell. Vermont Ag site that could be useful. Bridget sent a couple links we can check out.
6. Bridget suggests that Tim McKay wrote a piece in the North Star a while back and might be convinced to do a follow up article on it. Bridget has reached out to Justin who can find out.
7. Brian suggested maybe doing a public Informational session of the state of the EAB in this town. A zoom presentation maybe Wes could do it? Bridget reached out to her friend Emily Meacham who is a state forester in VT and she got back to us and is willing to do a zoom presentation! She would just want to know when and some specific questions that we would want her to answer. Bridget was able to nail down April 19th at 7pm a Webinar and she volunteered to host with her school account.
8. Deb asked if we could do a mailer to landowners and Brian commented that we discovered that it would be too expensive to send a mailer to everyone.

9. Bridget said that during the webinar we could ask them to give us their email addresses and then we could use that for any Conservation Commission outreach. Bridget is going to send Vange the Webinar information and Vange will send out the info so we can do some advertising via flyers (Deb) Front Porch Forum and Facebook (Vange), Town website (Brian).
10. Briand asked Dave if he knows of anything new in the movement of EAB and he said the VT invasives should have the most updated information and that they will be out there looking for it. He reminded us that It's a tough season for Ash right now because its been so dry and is likely to be another dry summer. That will stress the trees and it is likely that the trees will look pretty bad to some landowners so there are likely to be a lot of false sightings.
11. Next meeting Monday May 3rd. at 7pm
12. Vange will reach out to Wes to tell him about the Webinar and ask if he can join us to add information about Danville and if he has any other information he would like us to add in our advertising for the webinar.

