

Pownal Conservation Commission
Meeting minutes – April 23, 2012

Attendees:

Derek Lovitch, Matt Welch, Ruth Hannan, Kirk Niese, Rosemary Whitney

Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted, with one minor correction.

We discussed calling Mark Richardson, a land-owner near the Sweetser Town-owned lot. After some discussion, Matt decided that calling him would be inappropriate – if contact is made, it should be from the Selectmen.

We discussed the Goddard Road property (that was harvested a few years ago). A large amount of bush honeysuckle was found, primarily in three areas of the property:

- West of the Public Works landing
- Near a stream corridor within the property
- Near an old homesite, west of an abandoned road (This has particularly large bushes.)

Actions to be taken to deal with the bush honeysuckle are:

- Mark off the very large area of large bushes by the old homesite, so that it doesn't spread further.
- Send a letter to the Road Commissioner and Selectmen, requesting that an area be designated for the discarded bushes, to be burned at a later date.
- Manually remove by hand-digging (or cut down and use a very limited amount of herbicide) isolated plants beyond the marked-off area.
- Identify, isolate and remove plants near the Public Works landing
- Identify, isolate and remove plants near the stream corridor

Members of this commission plan to meet at the Goddard Road property on May 2nd to start working on this.

An on-going effort to deal with the bush honeysuckle was also discussed. Perhaps we can organize a group of volunteers, maybe around Earth Day 2013. (In spring, honeysuckle is easily identified and the soft ground enables easier removal.)

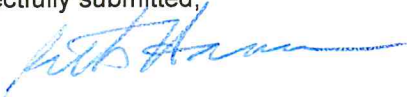
There is also a small area of Japanese knotweed along the shoulder of the road. Derek will go back another day to remove this. There was also one small area of multi-floral rose; no action recommended at this time.

A vernal pool was identified with salamander eggs (possibly spotted salamander). Concern was expressed about silt run-off from the Town's Public Works landing, citing the Natural Resource Protection Act. It was decided that a letter be sent to the Selectmen and Shawn Bennet, Road Commissioner, outlining these concerns.

Also, we wrote the Conservation Commission's Report for the 2012 Town Annual Report.

Our next meeting will be on the 3rd Monday of the month – May 21st.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Hannan

Attachments:

- Letter to Selectmen and Shawn M. Bennett, Road Commissioner (RE: Bush honeysuckle)
- Letter to Selectmen and Shawn M. Bennett, Road Commissioner (RE: Siltation threat)