

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2013

Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Board. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Robert Goodrich, Vice Chair. Committee Members Present: Jane B. Johnson, Michael Morrison, Theresa DiLuzio

Minutes of February 4, 2012 and Minutes of February 14, 2013 – The committee did not address the minutes while Morrison was in attendance.

Absent: Stephen Stepenuck, Deb Crowder, Richard Dell'Erba, Gary Coburn

Others present: Mike and Gigi Lilly

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Jeffrey Taylor from Vegetation Control Service, Inc. provided a review of invasive plant species, with a focus on Buckthorn. Taylor passed photos around to the committee members showing Buckthorn. The photos showed Buckthorn having moved into an open field in Massachusetts, and the owners were trying to control it by repeated mowing, which made it worse. To control the Buckthorn, Vegetation Control Service applied treatment to the leaves of the plant. Cutting the plant in the second or third week of June aids in ridding the land of the plant. Buckthorn out competes the native plants. Autumn Olive and Japanese Knotweed are also problem plants. These choke out the native plants and take over the land.

DiLuzio asked about the control of Buckthorn on Town land when adjacent properties are not being managed. Taylor said because birds are a major factor in moving Buckthorn the entire area needs to be treated. Dispersal of berries can be moved by animals and people too. Buckthorn is like a "junk" food for native foods, with not much nutrition. Buckthorn establishes a mono-culture, which squeezes out all other plants. He recommends cutting first which lowers the plant canopy in order to treat the leaves with herbicides. In small areas, he noted that Buckthorn can be treated with Roundup on cut surfaces but is costly to try to treat all the stems opened by cutting when large areas of Buckthorn are involved. Buckthorn often arises after a lumbering operation. DiLuzio asked about the cost of treatment. Taylor said the charge by his company can be by the acre or by the job. Taylor would prefer to look at the sites to estimate the costs. He said that a range of pricing is between \$150 or \$175 to \$400 per acre. Average cost is \$250 - \$300 per acre. The Warranty by his company is 90% control. They would not only treat Buckthorn. They would treat other invasive plants on the site selected to be worked. Knotweed shouldn't be done until September, and others not before August.

The herbicides they use are approved as safest environment for the land. And they can be selective to avoid native plants. DiLuzio asked about scheduling a visit to the Town sites with

Taylor. Taylor said that his company has to get a special permit if the work to be done comes within 25 feet of a wetland. Anything within 50 feet of a river also requires a special permit. Morrison said mornings are better for scheduling a visit. Morrison said he thought the Town has Common Buckthorn, rather than Glossy Buckthorn. DiLuzio said it will take another month to get everyone together to decide. Taylor said it being only March, there is time for planning. Johnson suggested that phone calls could be made so that a group decision could be made on scheduling. Taylor asked for a couple of dates to work with. He gets busy in April and May. Taylor noted that he won't be available from April 10th through April 17th. Sawmill Drive is wetlands and a permit would be needed for control there so the committee would need to plan for enough time to obtain the permits.

Lilly said that the Slate Bridge has poison ivy on both sides. Taylor can control that. Lilly asked about Sumac. Taylor said that Sumac is native. Staghorn Sumac has fine hairs on the stem, with red tassels, and the birds love the plant.

Morrison left the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Quorum required is 4 people. With Morrison gone, the meeting continued, but no vote could be taken since the meeting no long had a quorum.

DiLuzio will investigate the possibility of getting the Town Recycling Center to stop giving out compost with invasive seed within.

Taylor noted that the State of New Hampshire puts out a free booklet on invasive plants in New Hampshire. The booklet also refers to the regulations (the RSAs) controlling invasive plants. Taylor left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

- b) DES correspondence – none of this was reviewed during the meeting.
 - Route 10 bridge (Winchester)
 - Wetland's application - Michael Pratt -

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Representation at polls on March 12, 2013 - DiLuzio wanted to know how to get the sign for the polls and Goodrich said he would get the sign and correct the date.

The following were not reviewed during the meeting.

- b) ARLAC report
- c) OSC report
- d) SWRPC Natural Resources Advisory Committee Report

Johnson **moved** to adjourn, Goodrich seconded, all were in favor. **Motion passed** and adjournment at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary