

**Minutes from the Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting 10/16/23** - In attendance:  
Steve Moffatt (chair), Colin Netzley (secretary), Liz Keglör, Susie Houston (liaison), Farley Brown, Elinor Osborn, Diane Morgan (treasurer), Nancy Milholland, Doug Wolcik

Absent: none

Guests: Rob Libby, Brian Machesney, Ross Morgan

-Meeting called to order by Steve at 7:00

-New agenda items - none

-Ash Tree Inventory - Brian and Rob presented an update on the Ash Tree Inventory to begin preparing the town for the expenses of maintaining a safe right of way during the inevitable incursion of emerald ash borer. This inventory does not include monitoring recommendations, management plans, or contractor ID, but simply an idea of where ash trees are located along town right of ways. Solitary ash trees were not included as the road crew can easily handle a few dead trees. The project started with photographing trees, which were transferred to a PC to extract metadata and tabulate that metadata. The inventory identified several areas that need closer inspection as EAB eventually moves into Craftsbury, namely the Wylie Hill/North Craftsbury Rd area. The group then moved on to discuss some habits of the EAB and also ideas of how to manage ash trees being affected by EAB. The inventory will conclude next spring after the Craftsbury Common, King Farm Rd, and S Craftsbury Rd are inspected.

-Approval of September minutes - Farley moved to approve the September minutes, Liz 2nd, unanimous

-Planning Commission Events - Farley discussed the Town Forest Walks the Planning Commission is hosting to showcase “forest blocks” and “connectivity blocks” outlined in Act 171. Farley recently went to the Collinsville Rd trails and cleared trails with two Sterling students. Saturday, Oct 21st is the first walk there on Collinsville. Several guests to talk about carbon sequestration, history, forest types, and connectivity and forest blocks. Parking is limited, so carpooling suggested.

-Town Plan Update - Planning Commission is finalizing a public survey and Town Forest Walks will be occurring shortly.

-Knotweed Demo Site (plastic removal and working group report) - Sterling students came down to the site for a work day and did a massive cutting of the Japanese knotweed (JK). Landscape fabric was pulled and many flowers and strawberries planted in the newly exposed area. Suggestions for dealing with the remaining JK included: \$40/hr to hire out brush cutting with a DR machine, laying landscape fabric and placing riprap on steepest banks, and uprooting JK to immediately replant with native vegetation. Mike Wichrowski

(visitor on 9/21) gave a list of grants that may be applicable to the JK dem site. Invasives working group will work out a plan for next year and report back.

-Next meeting (11/20) agenda items:

- Grant discussion for JK site
- Brainstorming engagement ideas

Notice: There will be NO December meeting. After November 20th meeting, the following meeting will be on January 15th

Colin moved to adjourn at 8:26