

Marlboro Conservation Commission

Minutes for Monday March 2, 2015

Members Attending: Adam Gebb, Dante Corsano, Charlie Schneeweis

Visitors : Diana Todd and Jim Irish

Topics Discussed : Invasive Species and "Can part of Hogback be a Nature Sanctuary"

Invasive Species

At a recent class with Tom Wessels he stated that invasives are here to stay. At best we can take out the worst 5% and hope to reduce the spread of these species with education.

Steps that can be reasonably taken

- 1- Get copies of the Nature Conservancy document on Identifying invasive species in Vermont and mail it to residents/land owners as well as have it available in the town offices. Include a piece of paper that asks residents to identify the locations of any invasives on their property.
- 2- Identify the worst patches
- 3- Start site visits this spring and discuss how to keep invasives from making the jump into the headwaters of any streams where possible. Measure distances to water features and work to reduce the risk of the jump.
- 4- Have a booth at the Town Fair with live samples and other educational materials.

Can Hogback be a "Nature Sanctuary" ?

What is Nature Sanctuary? A place where natural processes rule and the work of man is not the guiding force.

There is no ecological justification for logging all forests in their youth. On the contrary, most forests have been cut too often with the result that now old forests are needed for the northeast woodlands ecosystem to reach its ecological potential.

The Nature Conservancy , Harvard's Woodland Wildland Review and the government of Ontario are clear about the science behind this.

Tom Wessels also says that a MINIMUM of 10% of our forest lands should be set aside to go old growth.

A good forester works to maximize the diversity of forest conditions. We can have small clear cuts and early successional forests fairly quickly. Mid succesional forests do not take very long to create either. Old growth forests take centuries of protection to succeed.

The Marlboro CC would like the town of Marlboro and the HPC / HMCA to consider having the Hogback lands north of Route 9 set aside as a nature sanctuary. This would mean having an additional easement with the Sweet Water Trust or the Northeast Wilderness Trust.

Sincerely,

Adam Gebb