

Knot in Hyde Park Committee

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Virtual Meeting 5:30 PM

MINUTES

In attendance: F. Landrey, W. Lane, R, Pearson, B. Rader, M Walz.
Apologies: T. Breese.

We discussed how to keep the effort alive/sustainable, mindful of keeping committee members able/willing to continue to dedicate their time. We agreed that we need to make a more focused push to engage more volunteers and we cannot take on new sites unless we have first hired a part-time employee. Last year we could not have added the sites we did without our paid employee.

MW gave an update on the permit process for this season's herbicide treatment. We are seeking a section 6.08 Terrestrial Invasive Plan permit to complete the work on the Green River KW Project, and to re-treat the three new sites that were first treated last year. The original six/seven treatment sites (from 2023 pilot) will now go into monitoring/mechanical management mode. We are not planning to treat any new sites this season, pending review of the pilot program effectiveness and the terms under which the Selectboard/Road Foreman want to continue, if at all, with herb. work. Application for permit was agreed by the SB at hearing on 11 March and will be signed and filed asap.

MW also reported that she has started discussions with UVM Extension about whether they are able to provide detailed guidance to homeowners who may be interested in treating their KW with herbicide.

We will convene a session in the near future with the new Town Administrator to work out options for the SB to consider in light of the evolving permit/licensing regime.

In terms of a part-time hire we agreed to reach out to the person who volunteered late last season to gauge her interest in a part-time job. We could also post with Sterling College, Johnston State Env. Science; and we will post in the HP newsletter. We have a strong preference for hiring someone from the local community.

The goat-herder who has served us well for two years alas is not able to return this year to the Gamble Site. We are looking for alternative goat sources; and we need to plug into the larger vision for this area of NHP village (with SB and etc.) to make sure our efforts are directed appropriately. It is, with or without goats, a lot of work to keep the KW at bay at this site.

We discussed ideas for trying to encourage more volunteer interest. BR suggested make more and more varied use of FPF. Yes. More at next meeting.

WL discussed the growing patch of KW at the Johnson Transfer Station. She is in discussion with them about whether they can start to manage the site (it will only get worse and could contaminate the compost piles?) or instead convert it into a KW Dump for public's use. Similar to what is available to people in Warren/Waitsfield.

We discussed the need to create a planting plan (wild flower seeds or native shrubs?) for the area adjacent to the Town Parking lot which should be free of KW and Multi-flora rose. We will reach out to Peter D. and LDDC.

FL, WL and MW all said they will aim to attend the gathering in Montpelier of groups working on Invasive Plant Management, 9 May 2025.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2025, 5:30 PM