Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 6:30, The Common

Members attending: Robert Linck, Rob Libby, Stuart LaPoint, Ann Ingerson

Members not present: Barbara Alexander, Logan Jones, Mike Renaud, Ben Alexander, Jim Jones, Jane Solomon

Assess the health of trees around the Common

Stuart LaPoint researched options for pruning trees around the Common that are near power lines. Hiring this out would cost about $2,000. Stuart has connected with Hardwick Electric, and their contractors from New Hampshire trimmed some of the trees under the power line on the south side of the Common at no cost to the town. Hardwick Electric put Stuart LaPoint in touch with the contractors and he was impressed with their approach. Surveying the actual work, we thought the technique could have been better (left long stubs). One tree on the west side of the Common with branches surrounding the power line was not trimmed.

An older sugar maple on the east side, closer to the road than the other established line, has a dead center and is likely to die or need to be removed in the next few years. We suggest planting a young red oak nearby as a future replacement.

The gingko is not thriving, and we suggest moving it to the southwest corner to replace the diseased sycamore. Stuart will move this tree. Stuart will research other wet-tolerant trees as replacements, maybe just red maple.

The northernmost sugar maple on the west side is dying. We suggest taking it down. The safest approach would be to dismantle the fence and fell it onto the Common. Robert will contact Steve Moffatt to help and Harry Miller about the fence. Red oak may be a good replacement for this location.

Stuart will prune the ninebark at the northwest corner.

Possible forestry activities for Coburn Hill woodlot

Robert thinks it would be very difficult to find someone to do the work, which will have little commercial value. He discussed it with Jared Nunery. Jared will check the current situation and see if the forestry crew at Hazen is interested in working there.

Controlling knotweed patch on Jim Moffatt Memorial Forest

Even though he couldn't attend the meeting, Logan sent a sheet describing control methods. One option is to re-cut every two weeks from April to August, bagging all plant parts to prevent resprouting. Another is to cover with heavy tarp out 10 feet from the edges and cut any sprouts beyond that as above. Third is to apply Roundup (glyphosate). Best time to spray is late summer, but it's more practical when plants are 3 to 6 feet tall. We propose to combine

methods by cutting during the early summer, then stopping the cutting in time for sprouts to reach 3-6 feet by late August, then apply Roundup. Ann will cut and bag several times over the summer. Stuart has an applicator's license and can do the spraying.

Other business suggested by members

Bill Lee would like to make and sell some baseball bats to benefit the Craftsbury Little League program. He proposes to use wood from the town forest, which we approved. A final decision would be needed by the Select Board.

Committee Chair

Robert is interested in passing the chair to someone else, but there were no volunteers for the position.

Meeting adjourned 7:30.