Craftsbury Conservation Commission
October 21, 2026

Present: Nancy Milholland, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Charles Gill, Molly Sease, Farley Brown
Absent: Victoria LaGuardia

The September 21, 2026 minutes were approved - moved by Diane Morgan and seconded by Nancy Milholland.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Municipal Day 2026 will take place on October 30th. The cost is $40. The theme is Maps, Maps, Maps! The focus on spatial analysis, mapping tools, interpretation, and creation for municipal planning and decision-making.

Work Group Updates:
It was decided to table the Bailey Hazen Mapping project tonight

Japanese Knotweed Demonstration Site update (Elinor's report)

- The Green Racing Project (GRP) Runners pulled and dug knotweed on the Cole Road side of the site. They also stapled rugs. One team member, Mead Binhammer, would be excited to come back with the team next year. He works with Assoc. Of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) which is a great connection.
- Stu Johnstone planted purple flowering raspberries and spent time digging out knotweed on the west side of the 'lawn'.
- Sawing the sycamore (or is it a London Plane?). It has been determined that cutting the branches of the tree might be dangerous, but cutting the crown might be okay. More field assessment should be down. Charles has agreed to cut the crown thats on the Cole Road side in the spring.
- Molly and Elinor will spread coneflower seeds at the site.
- Elinor has emailed Dylan Smith, the new Fish and Wildlife employee who is the contact for the F&W property at/below the dam. She would like to get permission to cut the uprooted maple and the sycamore. No response. She will keep trying.
- Elinor took down the plant identification signs for the year and put in stakes to remember what goes where next spring.
- Elinor is writing a newsletter to show pictures of the work to date. Nancy will put it on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Nancy suggested stressing the educational value of being at the site.
- Elinor will set up a iNaturalist subproject for the knotweed site which will go under the Craftsbury iNaturalist Project.
- Elinor suggested that we find a place for the CCC equipment (stakes, chicken wire, plant ID pictures, staples, etc.). It's currently stored in her garage. Where???
- A schedule should be developed for the Cole Road side weed wacking next spring - fall. Important to note that the steep slope is very dangerous for weed wacking.
- More willow fascines need to be constructed and installed next spring.

- Diane made the point that we (the CCC) have done what we planned on - demonstrating different techniques for managing knotweed.

Project Outreach:

- Jumping worms…ugh. This will be a topic for the next meeting. We need to talk with Susan O'Connell about collaborating on outreach. The CCC could provide prevention methods. It would be ideal to share information each month next winter/spring. Molly has researched jumping worm prevention, eradication and management extensively.

Dark Skies:

- Diane has reached out to Jon McCann of Dark Skies about organizing a presentation and panel discussion next winter/spring. He suggested looping in George Springston. Diane has not heard from either John or George. She will keep trying.
- International Dark Skies Day is in April.
- We are still deciding how to organize a series of events to raise awareness about Dark Skies. Diane will talk with Susan O'Connell about collaborating with the public library on Dark Skies outreach.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm. The next Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting is Monday, November 16th at 7pm in the town hall.

Submitted by Farley Brown