

Starksboro Conservation Commission
February 14, 2024 meeting
Approved minutes
by M. Gregory

Members present: Margi Gregory, Robert Turner, Jennifer Lovett, Jan McCleery
Other participants: Alice Weston-Rooney, Susan Reit de Salas

Meeting called to order at 5:35 by Chair, Margi Gregory.]

Minutes of Jan. 22, 2024 were reviewed and amended unanimously.

Robert led a discussion of invasive species on Starksboro's conserved land. See accompanying document submitted with the agenda, dated Mar 5, 2023.

It was decided that we would divide up the 12 invasive species among us and research both their ecological impact and management techniques for control and eradication.

For each species we would also like to know the following:

- Extent
- Density
- Potential to move into new areas
- Management options
- How much effort/manpower it will take for management

We divided the invasive plants among us:

Alice: buckthorn (glossy and common), honeysuckle, barberry

Jennifer: bushy rockgrass, spotted knapweed, multiflora rose

Margi: garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed

Robert: poison parsnip

Jan: reed canary grass, purple loosestrife

It was suggested that we might also consider adding chervil and goutweed.

Some resources: Ontario Invasive Plant website; Vermont Invasive Plant website

Alice will begin a Google Doc and be available to those of us who may need help using it

Brainstorming of possible volunteer helpers:

Pete Antos-Kecham has Middlebury students helping him and might know how to enlist more to our cause.

Environmental studies at Middlebury College

Mt Abe's environmental club. Peg's granddaughter Lauren is a member

Robinson School 6th grade

A grant through VACC

Robert will continue to work on the management plan.

Next meeting will be at our regularly scheduled time: Monday, March 25, 5:30 pm

Agenda: Looking at our combined Google Doc we will come up with a plan that:

- a. Prioritizes the most important species to begin with first based on the criteria above
- b. Decides on management techniques
- c. Plans for manpower

Meeting was adjourned at 7pm