

**Town of Grantham  
Grantham Conservation Commission**

**MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 2013**

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:12 p.m. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Room at Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

**Present:** Chairman Richard (Dick) Hocker; Joseph Watts (Alternate); David Wood (Alternate); and Caroline Hoen (Clerk)

**Absent:** Sheridan Brown; Lindsey Lefebvre

**Members of the Public:** Selectman Kenneth Story

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

In the absence of a quorum for this meeting, Chair Hocker declared that no formal actions could be taken and he postponed approval and acceptance of the March 18, 2013 minutes to a future meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Conservation Commission Representation on Grantham Planning Board***

Hocker reported that the Board of Selectmen had addressed the possibility of appointing a member of the Conservation Commission to the Planning Board. The Commission's representative to that body would be an Alternate, and therefore a non-voting member, but would facilitate communication between the two bodies. Hocker expressed enthusiasm for the concept but pointed out that membership on the Planning Board would require attendance at five to six meetings per year. Wood suggested that the position might be shared by two Commissioners and Hocker recommended pursuing the concept at the next Commission meeting when concrete action could be taken.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Planning for Conservation**

***Grantham Wetlands Inventory and Protection Program – Ongoing Activities***

Hocker reported that there were no new developments regarding the Wetlands Inventory project and suggested that the Commission take up the question of next steps at its May meeting. He stated that one possibility would be to organize a meeting with Conrad Frey, Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, to begin the development of a wetlands overlay district based on the wetlands map approved by the voters in March of this year.

Wood inquired as to progress made on three actions discussed at the Commission's March 18, 2013 meeting: whether a copy of the wetlands map had been forwarded to the Planning Board for inclusion in its required revision of the Master Plan; whether a copy of the wetlands map along with a secondary map showing property lines had been put on display at Town Hall; and whether steps had been taken to initiate a state legislative process to clarify the language of the RSA's pertaining to the management of municipal warrant articles. Hocker responded that all these initiatives were in process.

## **New Initiatives**

### ***Invasive Species Inventory***

Wood handed out copies of a timeline he had drawn up specifying steps to be taken in the years 2013 to 2015 to map and eradicate invasive species existing in Grantham (see "Handouts" below). The overall concept involves beginning these activities along Interstate 89 and within the Eastman community where Wood is a resident and already involved in an effort to control invasives there. Wood explained that by limiting the scope of this first phase, the techniques used for mapping and eradication could be tested and validated before gradually expanding them to the rest of the Town. Mr. Story observed that it would be important to include a public education component in such a program. Wood concurred, mentioning that he had developed a power point presentation to deliver to interested groups. He anticipated that there would be a particular need to inform the public of the safety of the herbicides needed for eradication. Hocker thanked Wood for the excellent start he had made on this project.

### ***Open Space Inventory***

Hocker postponed discussion of this initiative until after the Selectmen's next meeting at which it would be discussed. Watts recommended that the Commission proceed slowly and limit its initial activities to the mapping of open spaces.

### **Perambulation Status**

Wood stated that he had been in touch with the warden of Corbin Park and that June or July would be the best time to cover the Park's stretch of the Plainfield/Grantham boundary. He estimated that this task would take approximately two days to complete. Wood noted that many towns in the region are not in compliance with state requirements on perambulations and Story agreed that the state allows a good deal of flexibility in terms of perambulation completion dates. He asked, however, that the Commission keep the Select Board informed of its perambulation goals and activities.

### **Town Forest Management**

#### ***Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements for Trails***

Hocker stated that the Town Forest trail is not fully navigable by vehicles used by the handicapped. Watts observed that the trail could be improved quite easily and that this would be a worthwhile undertaking since it would enable the Town to publicize some of its trails as handicap accessible. Hocker suggested that there is also a section of the Smith Lot that would lend itself well to the creation of handicap accessible trails. Wood pointed out that there is in fact no legal obligation for towns to provide accessible trails, just information as to which trails are not ADA accessible and why. Watts was nonetheless in favor of the creation of such trails where feasible.

## **HANDOUTS**

*Invasive Species Plan – Grantham*

*Invasive Species Eradication Plan – Eastman*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hocker asked if there was any further business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2013, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Hoen, Clerk

## **INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN - GRANTHAM**

### **2013**

**May - July:** Eradicate large stands of autumn olive and glossy buckthorn in Eastman

**Aug-Sept:** Map invasives in Eastman and on I-89 within Grantham.  
Initiate conversation with NH-DOT

**Sept:** Present Invasive Species Mapping and Eradication Plan to Selectmen.

### **2014**

**June-Aug:** Map invasives in Grantham (outside Eastman).  
Continue eradication of autumn olive & buckthorn in Eastman.  
Initiate eradication of phragmites in Eastman

**September:** Review Invasive Species Eradication Plan with Selectmen.

### **2015**

**February:** Present Invasive Plan at Town Meeting

**Spring:** Contact property owners of invasives identified for eradication

**Summer:** Begin eradication program in Grantham

# INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION PLAN - EASTMAN

2013

## April 2013

- √ Order second Weed Wand; Order #473920; \$24.20
- √ Discuss presentation to Eastman Board with Goldman/Ryder (Done 4/12/13)
- √ Confirm use of chipper in July with Ryder
- √ Meet with Prescott Towle of Invasive Weed & Plant Control LLC, Epsom, NH to provide estimate for the eradication of the Phragmites stands on Wellfield Rd and on Trillium in Eastman. - Met 4/6/13
- April 16: Review plan for eradication of Autumn Olive, Glossy Buckthorn and Phragmites within Eastman with Woodland and Wildlife.
- Post sign on Wellfield protecting Japanese Knotweed for trial.
- Schedule meetings with Lakes & Streams; Sustainable Eastman
- Discuss removal of phragmites from West Cove B/Inlet with Terry Jones
- Review plan for eradication of Autumn Olive, Glossy Buckthorn and Phragmites within Eastman with Lakes & Streams and with Sustainable Eastman Committees.

## May 2013

- May 2 9-12; May 4 9-12; May 6 2-5; May 7 2-5 - Using a crew of 3-4 individuals, cut dead Autumn Olive along the access road from Health Lane to the gravel pit on the Heath property in preparation for chipping in July.
- May 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 (Choose two) - Pull Glossy Buckthorn from Eastman Brook section of the Yellow trail in Heath Property. TAKE BEFORE & AFTER PICTURES.
- Establish method, tools and volunteers for mapping.

## June 2013

- Early June: Check regrowth of Japanese Knotweed along Wellfield and Phragmites at BuckCommon circle and at Frog Pond following glyphosate treatment in 2012.
- June 17: Present invasives eradication plan to the Eastman Board of Directors
- Return crew work on yellow trail in Heath property to complete pulling of Glossy Buckthorn. Large bushes will need to be cut and the stumps treated with a 1:1 dilution of Ranger Pro (41% glyphosate) in water applied with a Weed Wand sponge applicator. (Treatment under authority of the Eastman Board of Directors to perform a trial eradication).
- Walk John's Glen removing bushy invasives with stump application of glyphosate; map phragmites and Japanese Knotweed.

## July 2013

- Using a crews of 4 individuals and a chipper supplied by Eastman, cut Autumn Olive at the head of the gravel pit, treat the cut stumps with a 1:1 dilution of Ranger Pro (41% glyphosate) in water applied with a Weed Wand sponge applicator. One member of the

crew will cut the olive, one apply the herbicide and two drag the cutting away for chipping. TAKE BEFORE & AFTER PICTURES.

- Repeat cutting of Autumn Olive as manpower allows, stacking cutting to create brush piles.
- Trial spraying of Japanese Knotweed after flowering.

**Aug/Oct 2013:**

- Map invasives within Eastman and along I-89 within Grantham.
- Submit Woodlands & Wildlife budget for commercial spraying of Phragmites.

**2014**

**Winter:**

- Contract commercial applicator to spray Phragmites in the fall.

**June, 2014:**

- June 21-July 4: Cut the Phragmites stand on Trillium. The cutting will remove the dead stalks and force the live Phragmites to send up new shoots. These should be about 5 feet high in September allowing easy spraying.
- Plan ordering of seedlings for replanting in 2015.

**July/Aug, 2014:**

- Continue removal of Autumn Olive from gravel pit in Heath Property.
- Scout yellow trail on Heath for seedlings of Glossy Buckthorn.

**Sept 2014**

- Low pressure spray Phragmites stands on Wellfield and Trillium in Eastman with glyphosate or glyphosate-imazapyr mix by commercial applicator..

**2015**

**Early Summer 2015**

- Check regrowth of Phragmites on Trillium and Wellfield. Respraying will be done commercially or by David Wood under pesticide license #S-1606989N.
- Scout the access road and gravel pit of Heath property for seedlings of Autumn Olive.
- Scout yellow trail on Heath for seedlings of Glossy Buckthorn.
- Replant reopened gravel pit with natives wetland shrubs (for example: Button bush, High Bush Blueberry, Elderberry, Winterberry).

**Late Summer, 2015:**

- Replant reopened Phragmites areas with natives species (for example: Blue Flag Iris, Cardinal Flower, Royal Fern, Button bush, High Bush Blueberry, Elderberry, Winterberry).