

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTES**  
**August 27, 2019**

**Conservation Commission Members:** Drew Adam, Laurie Callahan, Erin Rodgers

**Excused:** Marilyn Chiarello

**Staff:** Sue Fillion

**A. Call to Order**

D. Adam called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. S. Fillion noted that Marilyn Chiarello called in sick late in the day. She advised that there is no quorum and no actions could be taken.

**B. Announcements**

S. Fillion shared information on 2 upcoming conferences: Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions on September 28 and "Government at Work" day in Springfield in October. L. Callahan shared that there will be a Japanese knotweed work session on September 10 from 3-6 at the Bellows Falls Historical Society trails.

**C. Approve Minutes of April 30, 2019 and May 28, 2019**

No action due to lack of quorum.

**D. New Business**

**1. Creamery Bridge**

S. Fillion reported that she just attended a meeting with Dan Healey, consulting forester, on the Japanese knotweed project. He is seeking guidance on plantings to revegetate the riverbank following the knotweed spraying last summer. She reported that he is going to spot treat new growth as well as deal with other invasive growth, including sumac, garlic mustard, and bindweed. Commissioners noted that some of these are natives, though nuisances.

Regarding plantings, it was recommended that D. Healey contact the CT River Conservancy as they have a staff person that does this type of consultation. Other discussions included what is the plan to combat future invasive plants and that once natives are planted herbicide use should cease, long term maintenance (possibly consider Youth Conservation Corps), what is happening upstream that may affect the site.

They discussed a draft of the proposed signage. There was discomfort that the wording implied that they are working on this from the beginning when they were not consulted. They asked staff to see what the timeline for installing a sign way and indicated openness to consult on the project but felt that being included on the sign at this point is premature,

**2. Source to Sea Cleanup**

The Commission discussed using the September 24 meeting for a West River Park riverside cleanup and discussion of the knotweed project. S. Fillion will advertise and include it on the CT River Conservancy's list of cleanup sites.

**3. Whetstone Brook**

The Commission discussed revisiting the discussion of using the Whetstone Brook as a theme to direct efforts. Marie Caduto will be invited to the October meeting. S. Fillion advised that public outreach will be needed for 250 Birge Street.

There was discussion of the importance of water quality data, particularly for villages.

**4. Phototoxic Invasives**

Staff will reach out to Jen Latham to see if there is still an interest in doing a video on photo toxic plants (Wild Chervil, Wild Parsnip, Giant Hogweed).

**E. Old Business**

1. Japanese Knotweed– West River Park

This was discussed under the Source to Sea Cleanup.

**G. Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 6:45 PM.