

Minutes of the Milton Frye Nature Area Committee for January 8, 2015

Present: Doug Brown, George Clark, Phyllis Katz, Lindsay Putnam

The committee is to inquire about potential grant funding to support control of invasive plants.

Invasive plant control specialists Erhard Frost and Bill Stack are to participate in a walk in the nature area on Friday January 16 starting at 3:00 PM at the trailhead near the kiosk.

Procedures, costs, and duration of potential chemical treatments for control of invasive plants were discussed.

If chemical controls are to be used in the nature area, public access to specific locations would be closed temporarily with the duration to depend on the treatment. Any possible chemical application by a licensed operator would be done when school was not in session.

Although insect pests might conceivably pose a potential long term threat to hemlock and ash trees in the nature area, no trees should be removed for that reason unless an actual infestation were to occur.

A draft of a slide show about the proposed teaching structure in the nature area was briefly viewed. Three potential locations for that structure were pointed out on a map. Such a location should be sufficiently distant from both the interstate and Route 5 so to avoid excessive road noise. The site would be best located in a well-drained area. To conform with the Management Plan, the proposal for a structure should include two distinct parts: 1) specific details for any tree(s) to be removed including species, area to be affected, and basal area, and 2) full details on the structure itself. Sharing a preliminary version of the proposal with the Upper Valley Land Trust will help to assure that the proposal meets requirements of the Management Plan.

Phyllis Katz has volunteered to prepare an article for the Norwich Times about the ongoing efforts to control invasive plants in the nature area. Potential illustrations for that article were discussed. Doug Brown can provide web addresses particularly pertinent for control of invasives in the nature area.

Mike Bald of Got Weeds? recently participated in a walk through the nature area. He specializes in control of invasives without use of chemicals and has been able to use invasive plants in commercial products such as garden stakes, fence posts, and rolling pins, so as to offset somewhat the costs of removal of the invasives.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark