

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
DRAFT MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2021

Present: Rachel Kane, Ben Pougner, Ken Davis

Absent: Jerry Schneider, Judith Ruskin, Norma Wiesen, Renaud Demers

Guests: Geoff Fehrs, Judy Bellairs

Agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Geoff is interested in joining the Commission.

Andy Wood from the Agency of Natural Resources will attend the June meeting to discuss natural resource inventories and answer questions. We are not sure where the next meeting will be.

**Canopy Grant.** Geoff and Ben finished the crabapple pruning. We need to submit the final grant report by June 30, so the fertilization needs to be done before then. Geoff can provide details on when the trees can be fertilized. They use a deep-root injection of biological fertilizer with mycorrhizae, kelp and beneficial bacteria.

**Emerald Ash Borer.** It would be a good idea to write up an article for the website discussing what we can do. Geoff will write something up. Next week is EAB awareness week. Jerry and Geoff thought that the Commission could take a walk behind the Health Center and observe trees, discuss symptoms and signs. Geoff will send out an e-mail to find a time that works for everyone.

We could map ash trees in the Town. The State does have a GPS mapping tool. We could ask for funds in the budget for ash mitigation. HCC needs to come up with recommendations. It would be good to have a plan by the end of summer. We can look for volunteers to ID ash trees.

If we had funding, we could install tree identification plaques along the rail trail. Geoff will look into pricing.

**Outreach.** We can get a table at the Farmers' Market and provide information about the Emerald Ash Borer and Natural Resource Inventory. Geoff and Jerry could put together info to hand out. We need to reach out to find new members. We could consider GMTCC or Sterling College to find some young people who are interested.

**Meetings.** It was suggested that starting meetings at 6:30 for the next few months would be more convenient. The next meeting may still be by Zoom.

Submitted by Judy Bellairs