

## Building Committee

Landscaping Committee minutes: Jan 24, 2013

Present: Tim Boland, Linda Hearn, Barbara Day, Margaret Logue, Nelia Decker

Guests: John Christiansen, Beth Kramer, Hunter Moorman, Seth Wilkinson on a conference call

1. The Norway maples are being removed according to schedule.
2. The Edey Foundation grant has been turned in, Tim and Hunter put it together and are confident of a good outcome. It is a collaboration between PHA, the Library and will hopefully pull in other Island conservation groups. Signage panels for community education will be a major part of the grant.
3. Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum* discussion: Key elements. Seth Wilkinson from Wilkinson Ecological shared with us his expert opinion. He is coming to the Vineyard on Jan 31 for a site visit.
  - a. It is considered a hazardous material in the UK. We are fortunate to have realized that it is growing on Town property and are educating ourselves and the community about its eradication. Tim mentioned that it is one of the “dirty dozen”, a bio-invasive that has the potential to significantly alter ecosystem function. It clonally spreads and dominates areas with its vigorously spreading rootsystem. He saw it in the Adirondacks occupying hundreds of acres of stream bank. On a fall trip to England, he witnessed miles of it occurring along railway tracks.
  - b. There isn't a short term solution, think in terms of a 5 year plan that could involve various tactics for its removal: mechanical, chemical and isolation.
  - c. This particular species has 10-12 foot root systems and ideally we would like to consider a 30-40 ft radius from the edge of known plants as contaminated soil.
  - d. There are laws on the Cape that prohibit the removal of contaminated soil from one town to another. It is possible to stockpile the material on site, wait for spring, the growth that will come and treat it then. There is no geo-textile made that can contain it. It has shown the ability to grow through concrete and asphalt.
  - e. The chemical that others have used successfully is Glyphosate. It is wetland approved and there are different companies who manufacture it. Glyphosate would not be applied on a broad scale, but injected directly into the stalk. This chemical translocates into the rhizome and is totally contained within the plant. While Round-up has this as a main ingredient, the use of Round-up is not authorized as there are other additives in Round-up that are disadvantageous to our use. It is crucial to apply the correct amount. Tim pointed out that the spreader-sticker in the typical Round-up formulation has known problems, it is residual and can persist in the environment. Seth pointed out that recent studies show that the active ingredient itself does not persist and is non-transferable to animals.
  - f. Discussion about the Japanese knotweed on neighboring property, how to eradicate it there and how to pay for the removal of this plant on Town property. We know it exists

on Rod Wells' property, not sure about the Waldron property. As we explored this challenge, Hunter spoke for the Foundation in saying that it doesn't see itself as the only funding source for this project.

4. Nelia will locate old minutes and bring them to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10AM.

Respectfully submitted

Nelia Decker