

Ripton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2015 – Nelson house  
7:15 – meeting called to order. 9:10 – adjourned.

Present: Warren King (chair), Mark Nelson, Becky Purdum, Jay Harrington, Martha McCaughin, Barry King (notes taker.)

1. Minutes of April 6 meeting – Mark moved to approve, Jay seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. Future activities of Ripton Conservation Commission
  - a. Birdwalk – Will be 6/6/15 from 7-9 am at the Frost Trail. (Postponed from 5/31 due to weather.) Becky made a poster; Barry sent info to Front Porch Forum and her email list of Town Meeting bakers. Bryan Alexander put it on his blog. (Suggestion: maybe another year, we could combine it with a breakfast fundraiser for the fire dept. or some other group.)
  - b. Beaver Pond Visit location and date – we think we'll probably go to the one off the Catamount Trail north of FR 59 but Becky will check a couple of others, too. We'll do it on July 19 although we didn't set a firm time.
3. Invasive Species. We talked a lot about what RCC could do.
  - a. VYCC will be pulling Wild Chervil again on FR 54, sometime between June 22-26. Warren will let us know when so that we can assist.
  - b. Let's schedule a regular RCC invasives control event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5 pm. We'll start with the garlic mustard on Robbins Cross Road at Jane Beck's driveway. June 15<sup>th</sup>. Another plant we should act on is the Japanese Knotweed growing on Dragon Brook Rd. That will require Round-Up. Warren will find out who owns the land to get permission.
  - c. How about a speaker on Invasives at the Community House? Warren will try to line up someone.
  - d. Information on a to-be-created webpage about what invasives to look for and how to control them specifically.
4. Website – Jay said he could work on a page for the Conservation Commission that would link to the Town's website. Some ideas for inclusion on that page:
  - a. calendar listings (RCC events but also other events like nearby trail work or walks)
  - b. Invasive Species (see 3.d. above)
  - c. Big Trees of Ripton – we could have photos of them and invite folks to let us know if they think they have one to be measured. Also, could print the info out as a book so other people would see it without going on-line.)
5. Gravel Pit discussion – Can we get USFS to think of it as a water quality/lead issue? Apparently, that approach came up once before but nothing much happened. Perhaps it might be worth trying again. If the water in Sparks Brook were tested and showed impacts of lead, perhaps USFS would have to do something. Could there be a Town Ordinance about hours for shooting? What happened to the idea of tree planting that USFS proposed? Is it still going to happen or is it on hold?