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Route 4A land update: Current owners do not want to put it into Conservation Easement. ASLPT is still interested, Andy Deegan (ASLPT) needs to pursue different funding sources to help with this. Funding sources will be available in the spring.

2023 Budget discussion: We have \$1,300. We have currently only spent X.

We will be submitting for Earle's work. We will also submit for the conference that Sooze and Nancy attended and the NHACC (New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions) and the conference that Sooze and Nancy T will attend Nov 5 in Pembroke.

Beaver Deceiver update: had planned to have a field trip with Frank Bryson, Andy Guptill, BD monitors, and Michelle Lambert. Frank was too busy. We can try again later – after we do our wetland walkabout. Good article in the Concord Monitor about beavers.

Andover Garden Club: they have been very involved in beautifying Andover. Nancy proposes that we give them a modest \$25 donation, seconded by Lee: all in favor. Hopefully Mary Lou can attend a meeting in the spring.

Nov/Dec ACC meeting: Nancy will not be available, but Nancy will set the agenda, Tina will chair.

Hopkins Pond: cyanobacteria bloom – State has posted signs.

- Invasive species: now in this area
- Buckthorn
 - Knotweed
 - Bittersweet
 - Euonymus

Will keep CDs in low interest accounts in order to have access.

Sooze working on article for the *Beacon* about invasives

Lakes Region Planning Commission was very helpful with the Master Plan and making maps. They also took our zoning ordinance and brought it up to date. It can now be edited. Planning Board pays dues, so they are able to provide these services for us. We should have someone on the LRPB.

Budget Committee

October 20

Condensed from approved minutes

Budget Committee Members present:

Andy Guptill, Dana Swenson, Donna Crisp Duclos, Greg Stetson, Jessica Rand, Kayla Chandler, Mark Cowdrey, Toby Locke

Others present: Alan Hanscom, Recreation Committee, Lisa Meier, Town Clerk

Public present: Jim Reed, Elita Reed, Beth Page

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee presented their budget. The requested budget is

quite similar to last year. The Ski Program amount is approximately 40% of the invoice from Ragged Mountain. In years past, it was suggested to take a token amount of the budget and a portion out of the revolving fund. Parent registration fees for all sports are put into the revolving fund. Students pay \$35 per week, though the cost at the mountain is over \$100 per student.

It was asked why the soccer line was higher. A set of goals was purchased this year for the 3-4 soccer team.

At this time, approximately \$20,000 is in the revolving fund.

Duclos asked what the Recreation committee would prioritize first to cut. Thoughts led to limiting ski lift tickets. What is a big ask for the Recreation committee? Volunteers, stipends for volunteers. The six members on the Recreation committee have been on the committee for a decade or more.

Town Clerk

Meier presented as Town Clerk for the town. She spoke to an increase in the hours and salary for the Town Clerk. She spoke to her obligations during public access hours, as well as the time required to get the job done outside of the posted hours. She advocated for time to complete work outside of public access hours. Meier also noted that ten years ago, her position was paid much more than it is now.

Another large increase was in postage, as this cost has increased over the past year. The board expects the USPS prices to go up again over the upcoming year, as has been indicated by the US government.

In response to a question about proposed raises for town employees this year, Guptill spoke that increases in salary are being based on bringing salaries in line with comparable positions in our geographic area, particularly with an eye towards recruitment and retention.

The Select Board reviewed the line items that have gone up significantly; general expenses, postage, mileage, office supplies. The major increase is to wages. The board agrees additional hours are warranted.

Duclos asked what the Town Clerk would prioritize first to cut? Meier is unsure. What is the big ask for the Town Collector? Help. The assistant TC/TC position is unfilled.

Transfer Station

The transfer station budget was reviewed by Guptill. Currently the transfer station has four part-time employees; The Select Board is requesting to increase pay rates to \$18 per hour. The transfer station does not have a supervisor; it is proposed to hire a transfer station supervisor, and split the position with the highway department. Guptill noted that there's a missed opportunity on streamlining higher levels of sort-

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Invasives from page 20

of native trees and shrubs that can out-compete the invasive species. This may also involve altering an area's light, moisture, or soil pH.


• Chemical Control involves using an approved pesticide to manage a targeted invasive species. The pesticide applicator must adhere to state and federal pesticide regulations and in many instances must be licensed by the state. For more information about pesticide use: NH Department of Agriculture Pesticide Control Division 603 271-3550, or www.agriculturenh.gov.

• Biological Control involves use of native or introduced beneficial organisms to naturally reduce populations of unwanted species. Most organisms used in biological control are self-sustaining and host specific. Expertise from state biologists is essential for biological control.

A list of New Hampshire's upland invasive species and a list of contact information can be found in Douglas

Cygan's 2018 5th edition of the "New Hampshire Guide to Upland Invasive Species," from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets and Food, Plant, and Industry Division.

For further information, education, and assessment of your property and woodlands you also may contact Tim Fleury, Extension Field Specialist for Natural Resources for Merrimack Co., and Forester for Merrimack Co. Tim.Fleury@unh.edu; 603 255-3733. Or contact Ruth Smith, Master Gardner Coordinator. The Master Gardeners also provide education about invasives: ruth.smith@unh.edu or 603 351-3831.


For more information visit extension.unh.edu/resource/spotlight-nh-invasive-plants. For more information on Burning Bush, visit extension.unh.edu/blog/2018/03/invasive-spotlight-burning-bush. For more information on Norway Maple, visit this page for a list of what to plant instead: extension.unh.edu/resource/alternatives-invasive-landscape-plants-fact-sheet. 

Bittersweet from page 14

Ruth Smith, of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, also explains that using chemical herbicides to control invasive species can only be done by landowners on their own property (following the directions on the container – the label is the law) or by licensed pesticide applicators. Garden club members working on town property (or other land not owned by

themselves) may not apply any chemical treatment.

If you love the look of bittersweet in your garden, consider planting native, American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). American bittersweet can be used in floral arrangements in much the same way as oriental bittersweet.


More information about controlling invasive plants can be found at extension.unh.edu, Integrated Pest Management for Woody Invasive Plants. 

Tie-rod from page 16

road Station has been identified by the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources as "the best preserved and the most architecturally important railroad station still standing in Merrimack County, New Hampshire, and perhaps the best 19th century wooden railroad station surviving in New Hampshire." The site features striking architectural details from the time period and today serves as a functioning museum showcasing historic authenticity and artifacts.


Looking to join the Maker's Club or submit a project for assistance? Email

NHTI professor and club advisor Dennis Tappin at dtappin@ccsnh.edu.

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