

TOWN OF STAMFORD, VERMONT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
September 18, 2024

The meeting opened at 6:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The commissioners present were Sheila Lawrence, David Saldo, Lisa Gramlin, Marta Miller and Sheila Pecor. Sally Bohl and Martin Cristofolini were absent.

Visitors present were James Righi and Debra Righi.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2024 meeting was made by Marta and seconded by Lisa and accepted by the other members.

Marta showed a picture of the Emerald Ash Borer and gave a presentation on this invasive species. The beetle is a bright emerald green, cylindrical in shape and about a half inch long. It was introduced from north-eastern Asia in wood or wood products. Woodpeckers in the trees is an indication it is present. Example of ways studied to eradicate the beetle are an insecticide injection or spray, use of the parasitoid wasp which eats the larvae, and cutting and burning the wood. If 30% of the leaves in the canopy are gone, the tree is probably not savable. It would be best to cut the tree and burn the wood. Wood from an ash with the disease should not be transported to prevent the spread of the beetle as the eggs are in the crevices of the bark and the larvae are under the bark.

She also showed a picture of the Wild Parsnip which is another invasive species that causes severe skin burns and blisters.

The other very invasive plant is the Japanese Knotweed and spreading along the river as one place in town. It has a bamboo like stalk, can grow to 10 feet with roots that are very deep and spread for many feet. A spray like Round Up can be used but isn't recommended as it is carcinogenic. It will eventually stop growing if continuously mowed down but this isn't always possible due to its location and will take an extended period of time. The canes can be cut close to the ground and smothered but again this takes a long time.

Marta will ask Lorie to post the links to the above invasive species on the web site under the Conservation Commission.

The rule regarding a commissioner missing 5 meetings without a valid reason was again discussed. It was decided a letter would be sent after the 4<sup>th</sup> missed meeting and if the

person did not respond or attend the next meeting, a letter would be sent asking for his or her resignation.

Debra Righi presented to the board a folder containing a detailed genealogy of Seraphin Forget (Forgette) born in 1844 in Napierville, Quebec, Canada. Many past and present members (which included the Ludger and Rose Arnold family ) resided and still reside in North Adams, MA and Stamford, VT.

It was announced that a Resilience Fair would be held on October 5, 2024, at the school from 12 – 5:00 PM.

Lisa made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Sheila L. and approved by all.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Sheila Pecor: Clerk