

## Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting May 17, 2021 Minutes

### Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate) Chuck Cardillo (Select Board liaison)	Patrick White Michael Canales Ken Gooch, Tree Surveyor CTSB: Steven Borns

- Matt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- Introductions and approval of May 10th Minutes
  - Approved unanimously
- **Ice Glen** Update - Patrick White, Town Selectman and Ken Gooch, Tree Surveyor
  - Ken looked at hemlocks greater than 10" DBH (diameter at breast height)
    - Inspected about 350 hemlocks
    - Some of these hemlocks are >400 years old
  - 60% of hemlocks are in poor condition due to infestation of hemlock wooly adelgid and elongated hemlock scale
    - About 150 hemlocks should be treated
    - Without mitigation, the trees will not survive
  - Dinotefuran is the only treatment that works on both wooly adelgid and hemlock scale. A treatment works for 2–5 years. The treatment is most effective when sprayed on the bark, from ground up to 5 feet. Dinotefuran is absorbed through the bark and enters the vascular system.
  - Treatment is best May through June, early in the morning over 2–3 days. Can also be done Sept/Oct., but that is not as effective.
    - Ken can give us guidance about the contract.
    - Cost for Dinotefuran is \$15/inch (DBH) or more.
    - Ave. DBH is 23". Total cost is about \$70,000.
    - There is a federal grant program for suppression. Proposal deadline is October. Ken can help with it.
    - We should treat this September, and submit a proposal for further treatment next Spring.
  - The trees need to be monitored annually in the Spring. If the infestation returns, retreat the trees.
  - Some of the trees are so weak they may not take the Dinotefuran up to the canopy.
  - The goal is to keep the trees alive while we wait for biological control to get established. This could take many years.
  - Ken also looked at white ash greater than 10" DBH
  - Ice Glen has some of the oldest and largest white ash trees in the state or even New England.
  - He didn't see evidence of emerald ash borer at this point, but the infestation is there, just not far along yet.

- o We should treat them before it gets worse. They can die in 2–3 years.
- o Cost is \$12–\$15/inch DBH. The average is probably >30”
- o There are about 34 ash trees to treat
- o We can get a suppression grant for them.
- o There is a warrant article for \$30K. Town meeting is in June 12. Funds become available in July.
  - Commission will request that the Select Board change the draft warrant article to cover the full cost of treating the hemlocks.
  - Bidding is at least 6–8 weeks
  - Aim for treatment in September
- o Motion made: see below.
- **Right to Farm Bylaw** Update - Chuck Cardillo, Town Selectman
  - o It’s a basic bylaw. All the surrounding towns have it.
  - o It protects farmers from being forced out
  - o If anyone has a grievance about the operation of a farm, the Commission hears it.
  - o Erik made a motion. See below.
- **Forest Stewardship Plan grants** - Shelby Marshall, Ag & Forestry Secretary
  - o Lisa raised questions about Ice Glen and the possibility that a stewardship plan would recommend actions we don’t want to do.
  - o Lisa offered to work with Shelby on proposals.
  - o Matt made a motion. See below
- **Adjournment** - Set next meeting date and time
  - o Next meeting, we return to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month = June 7 at 6:30
  - o At 6:18 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

### Motions

1. Erik made a motion, Lisa seconded it, to ask the Select Board to raise the amount of the Ice Glen treatment warrant article to \$70,000. Passed unanimously. Chuck will report to the SB on Thursday.
2. Erik made a motion to endorse the Right to Farm Bylaw. Matt seconded it. Passed unanimously.
3. Matt made a motion., Lisa seconded it, to ask the Select Board to apply for Forest Stewardship Plan grants. Passed unanimously. Matt will send the request to Michael. It will go on a Select Board agenda.

### To Do items

- Matt
  - o He will send a request to Michael Canales to put Forest Stewardship Plan grant proposals on the Select Board agenda.
- Shelby and Lisa
  - o They will work with Michael Canales on Forest Stewardship Plan grant proposals
- Ken Gooch
  - o He will send us the table from his report in spreadsheet format. We can use it to calculate costs.
  - o He will help us write the federal suppression grant proposals.

- o He will help us review bids and manage contractors.