

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting October 4, 2021 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate)	Michael Canales Patrick White Ken Gooch Kyle Byrne

- Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Matt made a motion to approve the meeting of Sept. 13. Matt then made a motion to approve the AFC minutes from the joint meeting with the Select Board.
 - Both motions approved unanimously
- **Ice Glen RFP Update**
 - RFP for Treatment: Michael Canales
 - We anticipate putting out the RFP for injection in January, for treatment in the spring. Ken Gooch has confirmed that there is no limit on how much we can apply by injection.
 - The RFP will include both spray and injection, so that companies can bid on either or a combo of the two. We might end up with a combination of both to get the most trees done for the money.
 - Injection costs roughly 3X the cost of spray, because it uses more dinotefuran (inject pure vs. spray a dilution), and it's more labor-intensive.
 - Ken is starting to see Hemlock Borer attacking the weakest trees that are the most damaged. About 30 – 35 trees. Those trees may die this year.
 - Suppression Grant
 - Application is due early Nov.
 - This is not a matching grant. But we can say that we are using our own \$60,000, too. Make the point that we are committed.
 - Patrick will get in touch with Bonney Hartley to address the cultural history and importance of these trees. Tell the story of continuous use from Mohicans to Hawthorne/Melville to today.
 - Get letter of support from Bob Leverett.
 - Ask for \$60,000. Even match. We probably need a total of \$180,000 to treat all of the trees with injection.
 - Lisa is the main writer. Patrick will send info about cultural importance. Shelby will help edit the narrative.
 - Timeline
 - Suppression grant application is due Nov. 2. Nicole wants it by Oct. 26. She will submit it.
 - Lisa and Shelby can work on the application.
 - The Commission will meet on Oct. 18 at 6:30 to go over the application.
 - RFP will go out in January, treatment in the spring.

- **DendroW Discussion**

- The PDF presentation they sent says that the best time to apply is before the insects emerge. How does that work, since it washes the insects off of the leaves?
 - Kyle Byrne answered. That statement on the presentation was in error. It should be sprayed when the insects are on the trees.
 - They are still in the experimental stage.
 - They don't know yet whether or not it affects beneficial insects.
 - As for the soil, there is minimal if any overspray or drippage. Soda ash increases soil pH. But the residue is a trace amount, and they believe there will be no increase of soil pH.
 - Kyle has done 35–40 applications, including respraying, in the past 6 months. Has seen no needle burn.
 - They will do the pilot for free. Will come back to us with a cost for further treatment.
 - They are reaching out to UMass, ESF, and Cornell to do academic studies.
 - Michael said that Town Counsel says we can't use town land for testing.
 - We said that we want to see results of long-term testing, over several years. How it affects ecosystem health, ongoing infestation, etc. It will take several years to know whether or not this treatment will be a good fit for the Ice Glen. In the meantime, we should use dinotefuran to save the trees. Maybe DendroW will work on long-term maintenance.
 - A flight lasts 15 minutes, can cover 3–4 acres. Pilot can be up to 2.5 miles away. They carry insurance (liability, etc.).
 - Erik reminded us that Moose from Stockbridge Bowl Assoc. attended the July meeting and talked about infected hemlocks in Bullard Woods. Patrick will meet with him tomorrow, and he'll ask if Moose would be interested in doing a test there.

- **Winter Agenda Discussion**

- Mathieu Boudreau:
 - In Nov., Matt wants to talk about tree regulations. He will try to get Mark Faber to come.
 - Wants to talk about Tree City, and get that going.
 - Amend the bylaw that established the commission, and add more people to the commission.
 - In the winter, start talking about establishing a farmer's market
- Old Growth Network Ceremony: Select Board has not set a date. Patrick suggested the October or November full moon.

- **Adjournment** - Confirm next meeting date and time

- Next meeting is October 18, at 6:30 to talk about the suppression grant.
- Next regular meeting is Monday, November 1, at 6:30.
- At 8:02 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.