**TOWN OF LEYDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING 3/25/24**

**Attendees**

Evan Abramson

Janell Howard

Karen O’Neil

Don Sadowsky

**Discussion**

Approved Minutes for Meeting of 1/22/24

**Knotweed**

* Discussed possible control methods:
  + 6x mowing 1st year, 5x next year, etc. for 6 years may be more effective than herbicides
  + 1st cut with scythe cutter
* Uncertain whether town will mow, maybe hire a contractor
  + Under $10K don’t need to compete
* Planned for a public Information session in May
* Herbicide contractor doesn’t get back to the Commission in a timely fashion, only suggesting going in with a hose

**Logging on W Leyden Rd**

* Amt of logging kept increasing
  + Currently, 8 acres will be logged
* Evan talked to the logger, Chris Ergio in Gill, . Owner hired him because land was being developed
* Evan contacted circuit rider and planning board, no restrictions when it is already zoned for residential
* Evan saw a stream on the property
* Evan told logger they have to file for request for determination of activity (RDA) and has to stop cutting, can’t take out wood until we review the RDA
* Owner is a relator in Greenfield, John Dunfy
* Evan: have realtor hire someone to flag all the wetlands on the property for the Commission to look at Mass. forests are highly regenerative
* Typically approx 20-25 cords of wood in an acre, likely at least 100 cords on property

**Miscellaneous Discussions**

* Procurement processes
* Massachusetts healthy soils action plan
* Authority of towns to regulate solar projects
* Control of invasive species by planting natives that outcompete it
* E.g., *Salix exigua* (sandbar willow), 50 for $60, New England Wetlands
* Karen will draft a couple paragraphs on a grant to raise [name] road to protect beavers
* Planned next Commission Meeting to be April 29