

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