**TOWN OF LEYDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING 5/17/24**

**Commission Attendees**

Evan Abramson

Janell Howard

Karen O’Neil

Don Sadowsky

**Other Participants**

Cornelia Reed

Barbara Wallace (Zoom)

**Preliminaries**

Reviewed correspondence (none)

Minutes approved

**Discussion**

**W. Leyden Road logging**

No updates

**Knotweed**

Finance Committee setting up article for additional $3000 to control knotweed; does not specify how, to be voted on at June 3 town meeting

Herbicides $6K per year for 2 years

Mowing would be done over 6 years $192,150

10 feet on either side of the road is where the knotweed would be controlled

Normal once a year mowing spreads knotweed rhizomes

Trial of smothering on road failed; grew back after one year

Vegetation Control Service is not available this year

Barbara Wallace spoke to Lincoln Conservation Commission

Some people cutting 6 times a year

Local farm (Campbell’s) states that they have achieved Knotweed control with smothering only

More public education necessary

Evan: unlike farmland, roads are not flat, subject to erosion or flooding, smothering impractical

Also more expensive than mowing

Opt-out with commitment to control

USDA organic certification 35 ft spray buffer

Vermont organic milk 50 ft buffer

Finance Comm says create a 1-pg handout for June 3 town meeting

We will share handout

Suggest having a separate vote in the future on herbicide use, if we go that route

Karen writing article for Leyden Life on Knotweed, with input from Commission members

**Solar installation**

Cornelia Reed, 30 W Leyden Road

Working with PV Squared

Already have 2 arrays in a field

Want to put in a 3d array close to brook at edge of field in the 200 foot buffer of a perennial stream in a field

Ground mounted poles

Minimal ground clearing, flattest

Could do a silk barrier

Recommend seed mix

Approved by unanimous voice vote, with the condition that if more than 500 sq ft of clearance, the Commission needs to inspect