

Meeting notes for DCC Meeting May 5, 2024 @ 7pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting

In attendance: Vange Morse, Jo Oliver, Bridget Ferrin, AJ Follansbee,
Dawn Foy

1. Millfoil meeting: May 20th 6pm we need Facebook page, posting at Martys, West Danville store, kiosk at the beach, town hall. Post office, post it at the recycling center. Can Barry send what he wants on the poster we can post it around, Front Porch Forum. Will Barry be e-mailing the Joes Pond Association people?
2. We welcomed AJ to the meeting. We discussed aspects of forest management that we would be interested in exploring. Climate adaptation, Carbon sequestration, Wildlife, etc. . AJ will be willing to do educational walks as he goes. He is willing to do the mapping of invasive species, and special characteristics. Do we want to do a bird habitat survey, or a wildlife survey?

Dawn suggested that instead of doing a bird habitat survey that her husband could start a list of all the birds that he sees at the town forests and we could post this to inspire the public to get out to discover the birding opportunities.

As far as the Ash trees and Emerald Ash borer. AJ explained that you usually leave groups of Ash regeneration, and usually take the older trees, but keep vigorous 80 yr old and younger trees. There's male and female ash trees for 5 females you need 1 male. You can only tell by the seeds in the spring, and that only happens every 3 years.

3. We spoke with AJ about doing climate resilience work as part of the next management plan. AJ said that work can include

replacing some of our ash with oak and other more southern species.

4. What is this Beech leaf disease? AJ explained that its a nematode that's eating between the leaves so it can't transpire. They don't know what's spreading it. In the summer it will look like frost damage on the leaves: crinkle up.
5. What about Sugar Maples? There is maple leaf cutter but its not a new invasive, and so far the maples are not under attack.
6. We concluded with AJ and Vange will share the word Document with AJ and send maps.
7. The commission might consider proofing the natural communities map: go out on a hike and check it out and see if there have been changes.
8. In order to engage the public we should plan a date like a grand opening over the summer and invite the boy and girl scouts and schools, etc.
9. Should we consider a survey of the public? Perhaps a digital survey linked off our website?
10. Boy and girl Scouts may not be using the Pumpkin Hill space any more. An idea to get kids engaged is a scavenger hunt with the kids to find the special plants or historical sites.
11. Vange is tasked to talk to Natalie about doing field trips to Pumpkin Hill and what topics they might be interested: Scavenger Hunt, History, Tree ID, For June. with a note to bring home about the management plan for the town Forest.
12. We were granted the banner funds so we should talk about banners and parade plans. - Reach out departments: Energy Committee, Chelsea- Chamber of Commerce.
13. Next meeting is set for June 2nd, 2025