



**SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 10, 2023**

**Present:** David Henkels, Chair; Jeremy Cook; Luke Faust; Bruce Porter; Kasey Rogers (7:04 PM); Mark Sevier; and Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator

**Absent:** Ken Holtz, Vice Chair

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Henkels at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes:**

On motion by Comm. Sevier to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting, seconded by Comm. Faust, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

In the absence of a quorum, a vote on the minutes of the May 22, 2023 meeting was deferred to the July 24, 2023 meeting.

**Wetland Applications:**

**Notice of Intent: 1 Liberty Ledge (Camp Sewataro), DEP #301-1393**

Chair Henkels re-opened the Hearing to construct handicap accessible parking, walkways, and picnic areas within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from May 8, 2023.

Mr. Keith Murray, of Graves Engineering, and representative to the applicant, Mr. Andy Sheehan, Town Manager for the Town of Sudbury, stated that they have submitted a response to letter to the Horsley Witten review.

Mr. Murray stated that the flow from the 15-inch culvert wasn't analyzed originally. The model was revised to include this culvert and show that it is in compliance, with no increase in the runoff downstream. Its capacity is therefore sufficient.

Mr. Murray stated that, in the previous submission, much of the runoff from the parking lot was sent to the infiltration basin to provide filtration and stormwater control. The basin has an underdrain, which connects to a solid PVC-schedule pipe that in turn connects to the 15-inch pipe. Because not all of the flow could be diverted to the basin, they created a shallow infiltration basin to meet stormwater quality standards. It is shallow because there is a high groundwater table and high depth to ledge. Groundwater is only about 1.5 – 2 feet deep in areas. It does collect runoff which previously went into the pond.

Mr. Murray stated that, during a 100-year storm, the increase to this pipe is .02 CFS, which is negligible. An increase is not expected for other storms. The 15-inch pipe has plenty of capacity, and has never been shown to overflow in the historical records. The existing building has never flooded.

Mr. Murray stated that the infiltration basin has an overflow that will ultimately discharge the same as the emergency overflow. There is an increase in the volume of runoff from the site. The two-year storm increases the runoff by a volume of 89 cubic feet volume of runoff, while a 100-year storm increases by 426 cubic feet of runoff. Given the limitation of the size of the basin, they cannot accommodate the additional amount. If a variance is required, they will ask for it.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Mr. Murray stated that the storage capacity is 186 cubic feet. The runoff volume for the area is 466 cubic feet in pre-development. He confirmed that a shallow basin was added to the design. Overflow was always expected, but they wanted to reduce it to a practical amount. The pipe isn't modelled, but an

18-inch pipe carries hundreds of CFS. The capacity of a 15-inch culvert is 14.77 CFS. This pipe will have 0.02 CFS going through it. Comm. Sevier stated that 0.02 is negligible.

Mr. Murray stated that a stone trench for infiltration was added near the Liberty Lodge. This is a crushed stone area for capturing flow near the building. Contour details were derived from the existing topography. There is a little swale in area that will remain. They will regrade the area slightly so that water doesn't go into the building.

Mr. Murray stated that there are a lot of trees on site. The tree line of the plan is based on the shrub outline. Many of the large trees have been identified, but it would require an excessive amount of work to inventory all the trees. Coordinator Capone added that all of this work is outside of jurisdiction, which Mr. Murray confirmed. Comm. Sevier noted that the parking area didn't have many trees. Mr. Murray stated that, instead of a wall, there would be gentle grading and limited clearing in this area. Coordinator Capone added that two mature trees will be left in place, and no substantial vegetation will be removed.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that she had just received plans this afternoon, and needed time to review them.

Coordinator Capone stated that the vegetation within the bioretention area should be all native plants. The new plans note that all plants will be native to Massachusetts. The Commission's concerns have been addressed on this point. The applicant has made every effort to capture drainage given the existing site conditions.

In response to Comm. Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that today's plan submission was the applicant's second response to the second round of stormwater comments. Horsley Witten still needs to conduct further review. She stated that the final stormwater review should be received prior to the next meeting on July 24, 2023. She recommended continuing the Hearing until that meeting, at which time it should be closed and the permit issued.

Sandra Duran, Director of Facilities for the Town of Sudbury, stated her belief that this project would be a great asset to the community. They will be ready to begin work on August 18, 2023. She granted permission to the Commission to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023.

There were no public comments.

On motion by Comm. Cook to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 110 Codjer Lane, DEP #301-1394**

Chair Henkels re-opened the Hearing to construct a storage building within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from June 5 and June 26, 2023.

On motion by Comm. Porter to close the Hearing, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

On motion by Comm. Rogers to issue the Order of Conditions, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 58 Massasoit Avenue, DEP #301-1376**

Chair Henkels re-opened the Hearing to demolish and reconstruct a single-family home within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from September 12, October 3, and October 17, 2022.

On motion by Comm. Cook to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023, seconded by Comm. Faust, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 4 Demarco Road, DEP #301-1392**

Chair Henkels re-opened the Hearing to construct an addition and expand the septic system and driveway within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from May 8, 2023.

On motion by Comm. Faust to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 74 and 80 Maynard Road: Bonnie Brook Realty Corp., DEP #301-1341**

Chair Henkels re-opened the Hearing to construct a roadway and associated drainage system and utilities within the 100-ft Buffer Zone and Adjacent Upland Resource Area for a 9-lot residential subdivision, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from June 7, August 9, September 27, 2021 and August 22, 2022.

On motion by Comm. Cook to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023, seconded by Comm. Rogers, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 86-92 Boston Post Road, DEP #301-1397**

Chair Henkels re-opened the hearing to construct a Valvoline Instant Oil Change garage with parking lot within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from June 26, 2023.

On motion by Comm. Porter to continue the Hearing to July 24, 2023, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Notice of Intent: 502 Concord Road, DEP #301-1398**

Chair Henkels opened the Hearing to construct a new school building with parking, grading and associated utilities within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw. He stated the Commission would address the wetland and natural resource areas of concern. A number of departments will be involved with this project, and there is a great deal of information to be reviewed. Other departments will include the Board of Health, the Fire and Police Departments, and the Planning Board. He noted that the Dover Amendment does not apply to the Wetland Protection Act or the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw. Mr. Vito Colonna of Connorstone Engineering, and representative to the applicant, Joel Gordon, was recognized for his presentation.

Mr. Colonna stated that the site is 1.2 acres. There is an existing single-family house on the corner of Concord and New Bridge Roads. The Nixon School is just to the south. There is a residential abutter, and across Concord Road is Featherland Park. The main access to the site is a crosswalk.

He stated that there are wetlands on the site, and they will be working within the Buffer Zone. There is a wetland on the project side of New Bridge Road. Along the shoulder of the road is a drainage swale and an 18-inch culvert from the street drainage system. It flows through the wetland, then through a 12-inch culvert under the road. The swale is a wetland with vegetation, and qualifies as a regulated resource area. Across street is a larger wetland, running east under Water Row to the Sudbury River.

He stated that the proposal is for a new educational-use Montessori School, to be located in the upper portion of the site. It will be a 77 x 100-foot, single-story building. Parking and driveway access area off of Concord Road, routing through the site, then exiting on New Bridge Road. The 100-foot Buffer Zone extends up into the site. They have pushed everything as far possible from the wetland areas, to keep maximum separation.

He stated that the available utilities from Concord Road include water, gas, and electric. These are all located underground. The site is served by a septic system in rear and outside of the Buffer Zone, as far from the wetland as possible.

He stated that they have complied with the DEP Stormwater Standards and Bylaws. There will be a large underground storage system under the parking area collecting all of the driveway and roof runoff. It will exceed the minimum 80% TSS removal, providing 96%. It will also double the required recharge, 1,400 cubic feet. There will be 2,900 cubic feet of recharge.

He clarified that TSS is Total Suspended Solids removal, which measures the annual removal rate of all suspended solids in a stormwater stream. The State sets a standard Year Average removal at 80%, but this system will remove 96%.

He stated that a detention area will control peak rate and the volume of runoff that will discharge off of the site. There were a few comments from stormwater review by Horsley Witten, all relatively minor. It specified rip rap sizing, showing stockpile area detail, and defining the flow path. This was just received last week, so there has not been time for a response.

He stated that the Planning Board, in their initial meeting, expressed concern about potential ponding at the 12-inch culvert. They still need to evaluate this. This is a concern for abutters and the Board Chairman.

He stated that they are tying the bypass drain to collect runoff coming from above the site. They will be catching and routing around rather than accepting it into the system. They are looking into routing into the system or providing some other mitigation.

He stated that there will be signage restricting snow removal. The intent is to limit storage within the 50 feet of wetlands. There is a lot of available space outside the Buffer Zone. They will update the Operations & Maintenance Plan to restrict chemical use to Calcium Chloride or Magnesium Chloride.

He stated that the landscape plan has been submitted and was recently updated. One update was that all plantings will be native species. They are also removing the Norway maples along the road. This was a request of the Town, because they are invasive. These two items are forthcoming; they are completed but they didn't want to submit them at the last minute.

He stated that an invasive species protocol will be added to the landscape plan. They will consult with the wetlands specialist to get a recommendation for management.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that most of the Buffer Zone on site is the lower grass area along the road. The wetland is a bushy area adjacent to New Bridge Road. The existing impervious area is 3,500 square feet, and the proposed is 29,100 square feet. There is a fair increase in impervious surface.

He further stated that they will try to match the grade as much as possible. The building is at grade, and they would have to fill the parking area, where the site drops off. They want the parking to be level with the building for ADA-compliance.

He further stated that the 100 cubic square feet of fill will be used in the corner of the parking area to level off around the building. They will fill to a maximum depth of eight feet. The approximate square footage is not available.

Coordinator Capone stated that the drainage under New Bridge Road has been problematic. During one recent rain event, the water rose flooding the lower portion of the site. She visited the site again early the following morning, and observed that it drained quickly. It was dry by 8:15 AM. This is close to where the infiltration system will be going. They should confirm the elevations to make sure there is capacity for the new drainage.

She stated that she visited the site again after today's storm. The shoulders on New Bridge Road are elevated, so the water can't get off the road. There was flooding along the entire roadway. Improvements to the shoulder

should reestablish the connection and could resolve the drainage problem. The project itself shouldn't make the situation worse.

She stated that, regarding the concerns with traffic, they should make sure that New Bridge Road is adequate to support that traffic.

She stated that there are a number of invasives on site, primarily along the tree line. Most of the property within the Buffer Zone is lawn. Under the performance standards, there will be impacts to the Buffer Zone, but not the Adjacent Upland Resource Area. This is because it is an altered Buffer Zone. The only areas that are vegetated are primarily vegetated with invasive plants. In response to Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna confirmed that there will be site wide removal of invasives.

Coordinator Capone stated that she had asked the applicant about his plans for the lower lawn. That area is intended to have a picnic table but no play structures. She recommended a condition that prohibits other structures within that space.

She stated that, in New England, a flat roof is not ideal for handling snow. She is concerned that, with a couple feet of snow, they might shovel off the roof and then have no space to put the snow. The applicant has indicated that there is no plan to ever shovel the roof, and that the structure is designed to support the snow load. Another special condition on project should prohibit shoveling the roof, or specifying that it be removed off site if need be.

She stated that the septic system has not yet been reviewed by the Board of Health. The Health Director wanted to ensure that it is sized for use. It is outside the Buffer Zone, but the site is very tight and that could change. She recommended keeping the Hearing open until that matter was resolved.

In response to Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna stated that the project is before the Planning Board, but not the Zoning Board. Coordinator Capone recommended also waiting to confirm that the Planning Board doesn't require other modifications to the site design.

Coordinator Capone recommended that the Commission evaluate reducing the footprint of the driveway. It is now a 24-foot driveway, but it could be reduced to the 20-foot minimum required by the Fire Department. There may also be parking spaces which can be reduced. There are currently 36 spaces. There are drop-offs and pick-ups scattered throughout the day. There are not a lot of spaces needed to accommodate parents.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that the parking areas will all be paved. They are looking into what the minimum requirements may be. They are considering reducing the driveway to maximum extent possible. Updates will be provided.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that the staging area will shift through the site over the course of construction. It will most likely be right off Concord in the entrance, and will use the existing driveway. Once the building is in construction, it will move to the rear area. They will keep out of the lower area to retain the existing natural state. That is defined as the Limit of Work.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that the planting plan will be updated to include all native species, and this will be included in the next batch of revisions.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that the plans for irrigation are not yet determined, but there will likely be a well on-site. They need to determine what the need will be, but it may be minimal. The upper portion is a play yard which will be mulched. The lower area is relatively wet, so there will not be much need for irrigation there. He intends to consult with a landscape architect.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna confirmed that a perc test was conducted. The soil is highly permeable sand in the upper portion where the septic system is located. There is no restriction to groundwater in that area.

There is evidence of groundwater in the lower portion where the infiltration system will be located. They will utilize the filled area where the parking area will be located to elevate the drainage system above the groundwater.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna confirmed that the site is not under the jurisdiction of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated most of the trees along the frontage are Norway maples, and couple that aren't. Of these, a silver maple will be preserved. He offered to make an inventory of all trees within the Buffer.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that he wasn't sure if herbicide will be needed to remove any of the invasive plants. The removal method, be it mechanical or chemical, will depend on the species. The wetlands consultant will provide a full protocol.

In response to Comm. Rogers, Mr. Colonna stated that there will be an increase of 25,530 square feet in impervious surface. The playground will feature a rubber surface and also a natural mulch area, so it will be a mix of pervious and impervious surface. He confirmed that the playground will be located on the opposite side of the school, away from the resource area.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that there is a larger wetland on the east side of New Bridge Road. There are no perennial streams near site. The 100-foot Buffer Zone for the wetlands extends across the street and onto the site. He confirmed that one of the resource areas is an intermittent stream. As it leaves the culvert it enters a channel created by road drainage. They are looking at solutions that help with ponding and flooding.

Coordinator Capone noted that the wetland flags weren't visible, and requested that the wetlands be reflagged to confirm the wetland boundary. Mr. Colonna stated that the flagging was done early in the spring, but since have been overgrown.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna confirmed that there is a vernal pool in the general area, but it is some distance to the east. It has been indicated as a potential vernal pool.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that all infiltration takes place under the parking area. During higher intensity storms, there is some overflow coming through the discharge pipe to a riprap spreader to dissipate energy. It then flows overland towards the culvert. For most every day storms, nothing comes out of the pipe.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna stated that the existing contours are about 164 feet. The outlet is elevated a little bit and daylights near the bottom of the slope. It can be pulled up a little higher. He confirmed that the contours will not be manipulated beyond the LOW. For the slope coming down from the parking area, they will match the existing contour. They are not filling or altering the low area.

In response to Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna stated that the roof drain ties into the infiltration system. They had a bypass drain that drains near the play surface. A trench drain receives the surface water, and flow is routed around to drain out the front yard. It daylights down the slope. They are routing all clean water upgradient. They could put in a manhole and tap into the infiltration system. On the other side, the drain ties into a manhole and connects to the infiltration system. They anticipate flow from the foundation drain, as the cellar floor is above groundwater. A test pit for infiltration had groundwater at the 161-foot elevation, but the cellar floor is at 167.5 feet. There are no floor drains allowed in the building. There is no direct connection between the interior of the building and the foundation drain. The site has gas service, so there are no oil tanks. There is no chemical storage in the building.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Mr. Colonna confirmed that the culvert that crosses under New Bridge Road and enters the site from Concord Road belongs to the Town. They have to coordinate with the Town about what maintenance and upgrades need to be performed. This is regulated activity. He requested that the Commission

become involved in this process. The culvert is 18 inches coming in, then flows down to a 12-inch culvert. The Planning Board asked them to consider this as part of the project design. Under the regulation, they were concerned with what leaves the site. As long as runoff to this spot is not increased, it would comply with the regulations. However, since it's an on-going issue, the applicant wants to help improve the situation in the area.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Mr. Colonna stated that they are not proposing to have infiltration at the culvert. Rather, they will increase the capacity of the swale or the culvert by improving flow pass. There will also be improvements to get water off the road and into the culvert. The site itself will infiltrate stormwater on site.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone confirmed that the drainage pipe will be part of the DPW's annual maintenance program. She confirmed that it will be added to their agenda, and that she will meet with the DPW to evaluate options.

Mr. Mark Madden, of 192 New Bridge Road, stated that his house deals most directly with ponding every time it rains. This occurs with every storm, not just 100-year storms. He is concerned that increasing capacity will benefit the applicant but would lead to more water in the wetlands. With greater capacity, water will rise and encroach further.

He added that the neighbor behind him had a flooded basement in the last storm. He was concerned about the impact of snow melt on the lower area, and how wet that area gets after a rain storm. In a storm, water comes from Concord and New Bridge Roads and meet in the middle in front of his house and the culvert. It is coming into other properties nearby. Drainage is of high concern.

Ms. Jean Nam, of 81 New Bridge Road, expressed concern over the design of the infiltration system, where it was directing runoff into the existing problem area. She suggested it might be directed elsewhere. Mr. Colonna stated that the discharge must be at some point on the downgradient side.

An individual by the first name of Tarryn expressed concern about further disruption to natural resources from pollution and run off.

Mr. Madden expressed an interest in attending the meeting with the applicant, Mr. Colonna, the DPW, and Coordinator Capone. Coordinator Capone stated that any findings will be brought back to the public in a public forum like this meeting or the Planning Board meetings for further discussion and input from adjacent landowners. Drainage improvements will not increase flooding to the abutting properties.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Coordinator Capone confirmed that this project is required to infiltrate water from the site, but is not required to deal with runoff from elsewhere. The applicant would like to improve the situation for everyone, but there is a limit to what they can or are required to do. She added that the DPW would submit a separate Notice of Intent for road improvements.

Mr. Madden stated that the reason the applicant is being asked about plans to mitigate this issue is because the project would further add to it, and the applicant expressed an interest in being neighborly. The residents should be able to have discussions and request a plan to help mitigate the issue

Madeline Gelsinon, of 520 Concord Road, stated that she is the owner of the corner lot at New Bridge and Concord Roads, on the north side. This is where culvert water will be running out. Their property has been labelled as a wetland and can't be built on. There are plenty of wetlands. She expressed concern about runoff from the parking lot and roof, as well as changes to the culvert. She wanted to better understand what would be done to protect her property.

In response to Myra Miller of 496 Concord Road, Coordinator Capone stated that all of the area being impacted within the Buffer Zone is lawn. The Commission is reviewing the impact under the Act. The Act protects the Buffer Zone in relation to wetlands, not wildlife. The impact to the Buffer Zone is the increase in impervious

surface, and that is the focus of the Commission's review. They are determining if the proposed project meets the performance standards of the Act and the Bylaw.

Mrs. Gelsinon stated that, with regards to safety, she is concerned about the number of cars and buses.

Mr. Madden expressed concern over how the applicant intends to handle snow at the egress across from his house. The plows push snow across the road. When the snow melts, it might cause more water to flow towards his house. Mr. Colonna stated that they would instruct that snow not be plowed across the street. There is plenty of room on site, in the area outside the Buffer Zone.

Mrs. Gelsinon questioned whether the retaining wall built by the DPW within the last 5-10 years will be taken down or destroyed.

Eustacio Caseria, of 524 Concord Road, expressed concern about enforcement should the snow plows accidentally deposit the snow incorrectly, or if they use rock salt instead of CaCL or MgCl. Chair Henkels stated that, if an Order is issued, many of these items will be addressed.

Mr. Madden stated that a previous owner had requested to remove trees towards the back of the property, but was denied. He questioned why that would change now.

The applicant, Mr. Joel Gordon, clarified that none the students will be arriving on busses. They are dropped off by their parents. He reiterated his desire to be neighborly, and that they are doing their best to improve the site. They have instructed Mr. Colonna to look for ways to mitigate runoff and ponding. If there are ways that can be improved, they will be happy to oblige. It is not their intention to be bad neighbors. Their goal is to foster as good a relationship as possible.

In response to Coordinator Capone, Chair Henkels confirmed his preference that she consolidate the comments and provide them to the applicant to address in the next submittal.

Mr. Madden stated that, in addition to the ponding at the New Bridge culvert, there is substantial ponding on the applicant's property as well.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Gordon granted permission to continue the Hearing to August 7, 2023.

On motion by Comm. Cook to continue the Hearing to August 7, 2023, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

#### Other Business:

##### **Nobscot Reservation Invasive Species Management Plan, DEP #301-1375**

Coordinator Capone stated that it was a condition of the Order that the Scouts develop an invasives management plan for the area within 15-feet of disturbance, as well as finding locations elsewhere on the site that equate to the square footage of unpermitted alteration within the resource area. The plan they provided accommodates both of these conditions. It is a robust document that goes through each species and provides different treatment options for each, as well methods for identification. It is a Field Manual for the Scouts to implement the program. They have identified buckthorn, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, burning bush, bittersweet, Japanese barberry, black locust, and porcelain berry.

She added that Kristin O'Brien of the Sudbury Valley Trustees as reviewed the plan and requested some modifications. These primarily include the fact sheet at end, so that the Scouts have a visual interpretation of each plant for reference. They clarified that the first line of attack is manual removal, and only with permission of the Commission and the SVT, if manual removal is found to be insufficient to accomplish removal, will herbicides be entertained. The original plan was primarily herbicide treatment and manual cutting.



She added that the only outstanding item is for the Scouts to identify areas along the trail that would be proposed for mitigation to offset unpermitted disturbance. They will work with her and the SVT to look for locations with biggest return on investment, as well as areas that can managed manually. Locations where only herbicides will be effective will not likely be chosen as mitigation locations.

She recommended that the Commission approve this plan tonight so that they can at least start the project. The Scouts have engaged a contractor for the extensive earthwork to start later this summer.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that Lucas Environmental will oversee the invasives removal. The volunteers will undergo training through the SVT's Weed Warrior program. Hudson, Stein, and Howards is overseeing the engineering aspect of the project.

Comm. Cook stated that the manual was an excellent document that should be posted to the Town website.

On motion by Comm. Cook to approve the invasive species management plan, seconded by Comm. Rogers, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **Bow Hunting Program Discussion**

Coordinator Capone stated that the program has been active for 24 years. Increased public awareness, has raised some concerns with abutters and the public in general, who were not aware this program was occurring. They have contacted the Office requesting information. Specifically, there was a request for documentation of the vote in 1999, when the program was created. The minutes of this meeting have not been found after an exhaustive search. Since the evidence can't be provided, at a minimum a revote of program is necessary if it is to continue. An effort towards public collaboration should be made. This should include contacting hunters and abutters, and inviting them to attend a meeting and express their concerns. She also recommended inviting a representative from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide the science on deer management. She suggested having a robust conversation on the program, and perhaps a separate meeting for that sole purpose.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that there are 22 hunters licensed through the program. Most of them have been license for 10+ years. Bowhunting is allowed on twelve properties.

In response to Comm. Rogers, Coordinator Capone stated that the number of abutters is not known yet. She added that she intends to post at different Town buildings, to notify people who use the property but aren't abutters.

In response to Comm. Cook, Coordinator Capone clarified that objections raised have been to the existence of program, as opposed to its administration.

In response to Comm. Rogers, Coordinator Capone stated that the main reason for the program was to address illegal hunting. The Department does not have the manpower to monitor this activity. Also, each hunter has to provide two hours of service each year, which is a huge help with maintaining trails. The hunters are thankful for the program and respectful of the land.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that, since she has been with the Department, the hunters have averaged 12 deer a year. One of the critiques of the program is that it is not serving any purpose if the number of deer taken is small.

In response to Chair Henkels, Comms. Rogers, Cook, Porter, and Sevier indicated that they are amicable to having a separate hearing.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that the meeting should be held soon. If the result is that the program will not continue, the hunters can find a new location for the fall. She recommended an August meeting at the latest. Of the Commissioners, only Comm. Cook indicated the potential for a scheduling conflict.

In response Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that the hunters are tested only when they enter the program. She added that the Commission signs off on applications from all hunters every year. They agree to the terms of the program. There is no fee.

#### Adjourn Meeting

With no further business, on motion by Comm. Cook, seconded by Comm. Rogers, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.