

**Charlemont Conservation Commission**  
**August 14th, 2025, 7:00 PM**  
**Via conference call and in person, Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Participating: Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Andrea Santos, Clay Herbert

Others Participating: Randy Prostak, Nate Bellows, Jeff Nielsen, Star Atkeson, (Jeremy Forbes and Colleen Champ on phone)

Thorne Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

**Appointments:**

**7:15** Jeremy Forbes to call in regarding vehicle crossing Rice Brook, possibly related to Hinata driveway build on Warfield Mountain.

Jeremy Forbes spoke about the observations he made while he was walking the trails on the Hinata property one month ago. He saw heavy machinery treads crossing through the brook and thought it might be an issue. There was trenching, and culverts pulled out. He found the overall construction noise and tree cutting concerning.

Thorne asked Jeff if work was being done near the brook. He said no, they had been washed out with 5" of rain and they were putting dirt back. Culverts were broken and they will replace the culverts. Jeff told Jeremy that he was letting him know that he was not welcome back on his property and that he would serve him with a no trespassing order and would give it to the Charlemont Police Department as well.

Thorne said that driving through the brook is an action and the Wetlands Protection Act was only concerned about modifications to the riverbank. He gave an example of another case that the DEP was involved in where driving through the brook was not a concern. The commission agreed that it was fine for them to cross there.

Bill said any disturbed ground will go to the brook. Bill suggested seeding near the river and putting some hay down and trees.

It was said that the washout was 200 feet away from the river and that no rules in terms of construction had been broken.

**7:25** Randy Prostak to give Board primer on Japanese Knotweed mitigation techniques.

- Randy gave the board an overview of his background, classes he taught in invasives, and some background on why the funded Hawlemont knotweed/ Riparian buffer project fell through. He spoke about the different ways to control Japanese knotweed with stories of different case studies. He spoke about Sheila Litchfield's interest in following Vermont's Mad River Valley's lead to take on Japanese knotweed throughout the Deerfield River Watershed. He suggested

picking a spot in one town, trying it there as a pilot program and seeing if other areas would also start based on their success. He touched on the different herbicides. He talked about the “sensitive areas material list” used for right of ways.

- He spoke about how to treat with glyphosate: cut knotweed end of May, early June which sets it back and makes it easier to treat. When the leaves are still green and it begins to flower, there is a 6-week period to treat with Aquaneat or Glyphosate 5.4 using a foliar application. When flowers drop you can spray it again. He said you can control 80% in one year and you repeat 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time.
- He says roundup pro is on the sensitive area materials list. He believes that people have misconceptions about glyphosate. POEA, a surfactant ingredient is the problem with other glyphosate products, it is toxic to fish. He thinks that people don’t understand the science.
- They spoke of the different areas of knotweed around town.
- Bill thinks it is a State problem, and they have more money. They spoke about other invasives: Mile a Minute and Giant Hogweed.
- To do a successful non-chemical treatment of knotweed you make a layer of woodchip, then plastic, then woodchips on top to protect the plastic and prevent holes. There is an article by Doug Cygon about it.
- Nate Bellows was there as Agricultural Commission Chair, he didn’t see it as an Ag Comm. issue.

#### **Action items:**

##### **1. Review / Approve Minutes from July 17, 2025**

**Bill Harker made a motion to approve the July 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes as written. Andrea Santos seconded the motion. All in favor.**

##### **2. Board Reorganization**

**Andrea Santos made a motion to keep Thorne Palmer as Chair to the Conservation Commission. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**Clay Herbert made a motion for Andrea Santos to be Vice Chair. Thorne Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor.**

#### **Discussion items:**

##### **3. 180 8A update**

Thorne let the board know that he had talked to Brian. He had moved 5 cars and prepped some for sale. He got rid of scrap, if cars sell, he will have hit the 12 cars mandated by the Board. Thorne will talk to him again before Monday’s Select Board meeting to see if cars sold. Thorne will talk to the Select Board about getting an extension to the enforcement order to remove cars.

##### **4. Tree specifications for National Grid**

Star let the board know she had reached out to Amber Tulloch to ask her what trees and locations on the school property would be good. Bill Harker said that he could use two for the fairgrounds and one

for the Little Red Schoolhouse. Clay Herbert asked for two Sycamores to be placed at the end of South Street, on the bank, to prevent erosion.

**Andrea Santos motioned to adjourn at 8:26, Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of August 14, 2025
- Minutes of July 17, 2025