

**Connecticut Invasive Plants Council**  
**January 8, 2008**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Members: Dave Goodwin, Paul Larson, Nancy Murray, Bill Hyatt (representing Ed Parker), Mary Musgrave, Lou Magnarelli, David Sutherland, Tom McGowan

Others: Donna Ellis, Bob Heffernan, Karen Weeks

Mary Musgrave called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm .

**Minutes:** Larson suggested that the DEP position be referred to as "DEP INVASIVE Plants Coordinator position". The minutes were approved.

**Annual Report:** Lou Magnarelli distributed copies of the report, and noted that he had checked with the state to ensure that about 80 copies were distributed to those required by statute. He distributed a list of those who received the report. He noted that December minutes are always included in the next year's report.

**Porcelainberry:** Magnarelli distributed a report on the comments he received regarding the idea of recommending the ban of sales of porcelainberry. Lou described a few conversations he had concerning the idea. Bob Heffernan reported that he received no comments from members opposing the placing of the species on the banned list.

Musgrave stated that she and Dave Goodwin do not support bans of any additional species. They feel that this species would provide a good opportunity to show that the industry can effectively curb the sale of an invasive plant through voluntary educational initiatives. Magnarelli stated that his inspectors can be on the lookout for any plants that are on the invasive list, even if they are not banned, and can point out to business owners that the plant is invasive. Mehrhoff agreed that he felt this would be a good chance to see how a voluntary effort would work, and suggested that if the voluntary effort does not work, the council revisit the issue of a ban.

Mehrhoff moved that the council endorse a voluntary effort to eliminate sale of the species and its cultivars; Goodwin seconded, and suggested an amendment that the council revisit the issue in October. Murray suggested that the endorsement include that any educational efforts stress the importance of proper disposal. The motion was unanimously approved.

[Tom McGowan arrived – 2:36.]

**Poster:** Murray reported on discussions she and Heffernan had had concerning the production of a color poster. Mehrhoff, Goodwin, and Larson discussed the idea of including three categories: Banned Plants; Invasive Plants that are not banned; and Plants that are being voluntarily withdrawn.

Heffernan suggested that the poster would need to be 24 x 36". He estimated that cost would be \$2,000 for 2,000 posters; with an additional \$4,000 for packaging and postage. He said he could do the design within a week. Murray said that she would still like to discuss whether we'd need 2,000 or 3,000, based on who we need to distribute it to. Goodwin suggested it might make sense to not include plants that no one is selling, to make more room for the more problematic species. Bill Hyatt will determine the best way to procedurally expend the DEP funds for the poster.

Murray noted that she and Heffernan had agreed a line be added noting that customers should consult with the nursery about alternative plants.

**DEP Position:** Hyatt reported that the agency expects to present the job description to its Human Resources Department to initiate a hiring process, and hopes that a person could be on board by May or June.

The group discussed the DEP's Implementation Plan for the Invasive Plants program. Mehrhoff stated that he thought the plan was very well thought out, but expressed concern that there is too much work for a new staff person to do. He questioned the proposal to fund part of the Aquatic Nuisance Species staff position with these funds. Mehrhoff asked where in the agency the staff person would be housed. Hyatt replied that the person would be in Bureau of Natural Resources, and hoped to know more specifically where in that Bureau by next year.

Mehrhoft questioned whether this staff person should be responsible for taking minutes and providing other secretarial services for the council. He asked if DEP might be able to provide other secretarial help. Hyatt said he would look into other alternative ways of doing that.

Mehrhoft stressed the importance of the council being ready to immediately contact the Governor's administration concerning the position if the state institutes a hiring freeze. Sutherland, Heffernan and Weeks will discuss the timing for contacting key legislators who may be able to help in such a situation.

**2008 Goals:** Musgrave stated that getting the technical changes passed by the legislature is a top priority.

Goodwin suggested that the poster be a goal.

Musgrave expressed concern that highway departments are spreading many invasives when they move earth during construction projects. Mehrhoff noted that many sand piles are covered with one invasive species that is then spread through sand application. He suggested that the council invite Ned Hurle, DOT's Director of Environmental Planning, to a meeting to discuss these issues.

**CAES Workshops:** Magnarelli reported that 138 people from 37 towns attended training sessions at the Agricultural Experiment Station on invasive aquatic plant identification. He distributed a list of the towns.

**Council Involvement with DEP position:** McGowan stressed that the council should do all that it can to help DEP recruit the staff person. He said that the council should serve as a support, a sounding board, and a lobbying force for the new person. Murray stated that the current job description includes that type of interaction.

**Other Business:** Murray reported that two of their forestry staff said that Amur Cork Tree is a problem and should be listed.

Murray raised the issue of mail order companies that still sell banned plants.

The next meeting has been rescheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>.

McGowan moved adjournment; Goodwin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43.