

**Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
November 13, 2007**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Chairperson Lou Magnarelli, Melanie Atwater (for Vice Chairperson Phil Prelli), Nancy Murray (for Ed Parker), Dave Goodwin, Paul Larson, Les Mehrhoff, David Sutherland,

Others Present:

Karen Weeks, Donna Ellis, Carrie Rand, Sal Gilbertie, Bob Heffernan

Chairperson Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

October Minutes - Goodwin moved acceptance, Musgrave seconded. The minutes were approved as drafted.

Annual Report - Magnarelli distributed a draft that reflects suggestions from the October meeting and other changes from the first draft that he explained. Musgrave moved provisional approval of the cover letter and the entire report, pending Magnarelli's presentation at the December meeting of a booklet containing the cover letter and minutes and suggested legislative proposals. Larson seconded. The group approved.

Nominations - Sutherland reported that based on its discussions, and in accordance with an email it distributed in October, the Nominating Committee was nominating Mary Musgrave as Chair and Phil Prelli as Vice Chair. Sutherland moved election of the slate, Larson seconded. The slate was approved

Discussion with Sal Gilbertie - Gilbertie owns an herbal nursery. He explained his and his family's history in the industry and his focus on herbs. He explained that about 420 varieties of herbs are grown for the wholesale market, about 85% for cooking purposes, only 5% for medicinal uses. He distributed a packet of information on the medicinal properties of various plants that are on the Council's list of Invasive Plants. He gave examples of plants that he feels do not spread or that have been controlled by natural means. He explained that confusion concerning common and scientific names is causing some in the industry to avoid even plants that are not invasive. He expressed concern that the banning of plants is one more factor that could drive certain nurseries out of business.

Various council members discussed points that Gilbertie made.

Updated Lists of Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plants - Mehrhoff distributed a draft list of five plants he would propose moving from "Potentially Invasive" to "Invasive" and seven species he would recommend adding to the list as "Potentially Invasive".

Porcelainberry - The group decided to focus on Porcelainberry at this meeting. Magnarelli asked the industry how important the species is commercially. Larson and Heffernan both said that it is not critical economically. Larson moved that the status of Porcelainberry be changed to "Invasive". The council approved the status change. Murray moved that the council recommend that Porcelainberry be banned, Mehrhoff seconded. Goodwin voiced opposition to banning additional plants until the council could see what benefits could be realized by expenditure of the funds that the legislature appropriated on education and other strategies. Mehrhoff maintained that banning would be an important strategy for Porcelainberry along with other control efforts. Musgrave suggested that we seek public opinion before recommending banning additional plants; Magnarelli agreed with this approach. The council voted 6 – 2 against the motion.

It was agreed that the various members of the council would publicize that Porcelainberry is being considered for banning, and to request that comments be sent to Magnarelli by the end of December.

Legislative Proposals – The group discussed the legislative proposals and confirmed that under Technical Changes, Section 1 (d), the "Pre-emption" section, the phrase "with an effective date prior to October 1st, 2011" is unnecessary, and that the date 2012 should be changed to 2013. The language for that section will be under a section that begins:

Sec. 3. Section 22a-381d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

And will be proposed as follows:

[(c)] (d) From [June 26, 2003] July 1st, 2008, until October 1, 20[05] 13, no municipality shall adopt any ordinance regarding the retail sale or purchase of any invasive plant.

DEP is reviewing portions of the proposed language relating to enforcement.

Status of DEP Plants Coordinator Position – Murray distributed a draft job description for the Position and summarized progress on the draft Invasive Plant Program Work Plan.