

Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
April 10, 2007

DRAFT Minutes

Present:

Members: Nancy Murray (representing Ed Parker), Les Mehrhoff, Mary Musgrave;, Lou Magnarelli, David Sutherland, Tom McGowan (2:25); Paul Larson (by phone)

Others: Donna Ellis, Karl Wagener, Karen Weeks

Lou Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm .

Bill 282

The group discussed the expected release of the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget later in the week. Those who have been discussing our \$500,000 request with members of the committee expect that we will probably get somewhere around \$300,000 in the committee's budget. Lou Magnarelli will email Toni Harp, one of the Committee Co-Chairs to reiterate the importance of the funding.

The group discussed strategies for amending our policy proposals on to another bill, if the Appropriations Committee does not include it when they pass Bill 282, which now consists of only one paragraph about the funding.

Porcelain Berry

Paul Larson reported that Bob Heffernan surveyed some major growers and that sales are minor. Anyone growing Porcelain berry is growing the "elegance" variegated variety. Paul suggested a phase-out of sales with education as a fairly painless way of getting it off the market. Les Mehrhoff reported that he has seen one case of green Porcelain berry reverting to variegated. Magnarelli confirmed that the Council will not take any action until the fall.

Next Meetings

The group agreed that the May meeting would be cancelled. Magnarelli pointed out that we have usually not met in the summer. The group agreed to meet in June on the 12th at 2:00 at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley in Windsor.

Magnarelli stated that at the June meeting, we should discuss new officers for the Council. He noted the conflicts on his time, and the potential for conflicts between his role as a council officer and a regulatory official at the Experiment Station.

Nancy Murray encouraged members to persist in the council's efforts.

Mehrhoff and Tom McGowan initiated a unanimous discussion of and expression of gratitude for Magnarelli's considerable contributions to the council.

Old/New Business

Murray distributed a press release on an initiative between Meijer and The Nature Conservancy.

Mehrhoff distributed a flyer on a DEP workshop on invasive plants.

Mehrhoff reported that there is an effort to get all of the “invasive activist” organizations in New England to compile a joint email alert list for use in early detection. He will report back on progress. He also noted that there is a Mile-a-minute task force in place for this field season.

Mehrhoff moved adjournment; Tom McGowan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:18.