

**Connecticut Invasive Plants Council  
December 11, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Chairman Lou Magnarelli, Dave Goodwin, Bill Hyatt (for Ed Parker), Les Mehrhof, Tom McGowan. Mary Musgrave

**Others Present:**

Donna Ellis, Nancy Murray, Richard Schaefer, Karen Weeks

Chairman Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

**November Minutes** – Musgrave moved acceptance, Goodwin seconded. Magnarelli pointed out that details about the ending of the meeting would be added. The minutes were approved as drafted, with the proviso that the adjournment information would be added.

**Annual Report** – Musgrave moved for final approval of the annual report. Mehrhof seconded. The motion passed. Magnarelli discussed distribution of the report and passed out the list of recipients. Production and distribution of the report and its 70-some copies is a major effort.

**CAES Job Description: IPM** – Magnarelli distributed this position description for an IPM coordinator at CAES and noted that the position included duties on invasive plants.

**Porcelainberry** –Magnarelli distributed copies of 2 emails that he has received in response to request for public input. Comment time will close at the end of December, and any additional feedback will be shared at the next meeting.

Discussion followed about the value of banning porcelainberry vs. letting educational efforts inform the public about its invasiveness. The nursery industry may voluntarily take it out of production. It was agreed to caucus on this and report back at the next meeting.

**Review updated lists of invasive and potentially invasive plants** – Following on discussion of these from the last meeting, Mehrhof inquired about the importance of *Lysimachia numularia* (moneywort), *Ampelopsis*, chocolate plant, and *Phelodendron amurense* (amur cork tree) to the nursery trade. Input from the nursery industry is needed.

**DEP Invasive Plants Coordinator Position** -- Murray distributed the position draft and requested that comments be sent to her ASAP, but before January 1.

McGowan asked where the Invasive Plants Council fits in this. Magnarelli emphasized the need for the person to attend the Invasive Plants Council meetings and prepare reports for the Council since the Council receives no clerical support from the Environment Committee. McGowan stressed the need for the person to hit the ground running so that major achievements could be seen within 6 months. Murray stated that DEP is getting ready to create the position and hopes to have someone onboard in the spring (March).

Discussion ensued about the articulation between the invasive plants coordinator and a sister position dealing with aquatic nuisance species (which include non-plants), and that the plant focus of the coordinator should not be diluted. For example, on p. 4 of the document, "species list" should be "plant list."

**Legislative proposal** – Sutherland's document was distributed (having been corrected as noted in the Nov. 13, 2007 minutes).

**Next meeting** – scheduled for January 8, 2008, at the Valley Lab in Windsor (2 pm).

Prior to meeting adjournment at 3:30 pm, the group honored Chairman Magnarelli's leadership as chair of the Council and thanked him for his service.