

2016 Annual Town Report for the Lincoln Conservation Commission

Besides the usual Front Porch Forum reminders about taking down bird feeders in the spring and digging up invasives, the LCC spent many hours on the roads of Lincoln pulling and cutting invasive plants, specifically wild chervil and poison parsnip. All the wild chervil that could be found on the roads was cut or pulled (Yes, we drove every road in Lincoln! Thanks to Kathy Howell and Judy Witters for their hard work.). There is much more poison parsnip than chervil, so that is more difficult for a few people to control. However, we hired Allen Borys to mow along Downingsville Road and Quaker Street where the regular mowing misses (Thanks, Allen). Controlling Japanese knotweed is much more problematical, so we are concentrating on the two species that *can* be controlled with regular pulling/cutting. While chervil is not yet out of control in Lincoln, anyone driving Route 125 to Hancock or down Route 100 to Rochester in June can see how awful it can get. It is important to keep the chervil in check now before it overwhelms all the other native roadside plants that we love so well.

With that in mind, in 2017 we'd like to begin an annual "X out Invasives" Day, modeled on Green-Up Day. It would occur on the second weekend of June, which is when the chervil is blooming and the parsnip is large enough to find but hasn't yet bloomed. Both these species are fairly easy to pull out of the ground. Therefore, we will be asking at Town Meeting for \$200 to organize such a day. We will need "implements of destruction", gloves, maps, and of course food to feed the volunteers. We would very much appreciate your support of this initiative—both financially, and in person in June!

There are other issues that the LCC might address, such as an alternative for road salt which is most likely affecting the population of trout in the New Haven River (besides rusting our cars). Anyone who has an interest is invited to join the Commission. We do not have regular meetings at this time, but you can contact the Town Clerk or Tina Scharf.

At the moment the LCC has \$103.87 in its coffers, which is earmarked for mowing next summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilana Brett
Ed Clark
Katie Manaras
Lisa Nading
Tina Scharf, Chair
Judy Witters