

May 19, 2013

To the Hinesburg Selectboard,

Keith Thompson, the Chittenden County Forester, has made a generous offer to provide maps of non-native invasive plants and recommendations for their management on Municipal Properties at no financial cost to towns in Southern Chittenden County. The only requirement is that upon completion of the plan, the Selectboard thoughtfully reviews and considers the recommendations for stewardship, and that the local outreach related to non-native invasive plants and forest health continues at or above the current levels.

There has been a diverse group of Hinesburg citizens working on this issue for several years. We are asking that the Selectboard officially endorse this request to have Mr. Thompson, the County Forester, provide maps and non-native invasive plant management recommendations for both of the town forests.

This request is being made now because the health of our community is inextricably linked to the health of the land and forests within and around it. Invasive plants pose a threat to the resilience of our town and the ability of our forests to heal from fragmentation, wind damage, flooding, pest damage, or abandonment of open land. Where non-native plants displace native plant communities infestations can reduce the value of wildlife habitats, favor high tick populations, reduce forest productivity and biodiversity, limit recreational opportunities, and result in erosion hazards.

It is our hope to minimize the problems caused by infestations of non-native plants in the town. To start, it is important to look at the forestland the town manages to assess the extent of the invasive plant presence, associated problems and to propose recommendations for mitigation.

Please show your support for this effort by voting to endorse our request, and if it passes, signing and dating below. We will send this endorsement to Mr. Thompson with a request to provide us with mapping and non-native invasive plant management recommendations for the town forests. Thank you.

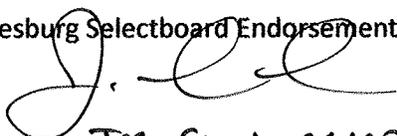
Sincerely,
Steve Russell, Town Forest Committee

Bill Marks, Hinesburg Conservation Commission

Liz Lee

Ann Donegan

Hinesburg Selectboard Endorsement Signature


JOE COLVANCE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Date

20-MAY-2013