

CASCO CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES (Draft)

August 12, 2014

Present: Nadia Herмос, Chair and Secretary; Rona Fried,

Meeting at Herмос residence at 5:30. There were no recent past minutes.

Issue discussed was the increasing problem of invasive plants in woods and on properties threatening native landscape in Casco. Of special concern is the large growth of Oriental bittersweet vine in woods of Hancock and Burgess properties at the end of Lord Road. Because that infestation is so extensive, and a likely seeding source of bittersweet in the area, obtaining professional help, owner and/or public funding, was discussed and will be necessary..

Other invasives in Casco include:

- purple loosestrife spreading in fields at the bulky waste site and on some property threatening to the brook;
- Oriental bittersweet on many properties,
- Japanese knotweed along Pleasant lake and woods of the Lilly Brook,
- Japanese barberry in woods;
- Winged Burning Bush moving from private property into woods.

Remedies to these were discussed, such as:

- neighbors cooperating to cut and poison Bittersweet vines on adjacent properties with Roundup Pro or Ortho Concentrate Poison Ivy Killer;
- Knotweed in public and private areas to be constantly cut and mowed to keep it from spreading by root and seed;
- that Barberry and Burning Bush should be pulled up, including all roots, or trimmed, then pulled with root wrench.

The need to find a licensed herbacidist to assist homeowners was agreed upon.

It was decided to bring the questions of how to deal with these issues to the attention of the Select Board at the August 26 or September 9 meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Herмос

