

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Minutes of November 10, 2021 Meeting**

- Peter: We are ready. All right. Well, good evening everyone. Peter Betkoski here. A regular meeting November 10th at 5:30. This is being recorded before we get started I'd like to think any veterans that we have with us tonight. Thank you for your service and everyone keeps them in mind tomorrow. It's a big day. We all respect them. Moving forward, safety moment, everyone would look at the safety moment. It's that time of year again, check your carbon monoxide and all your smoke alarm et cetera.
- Peter: Your fireplaces, et cetera. Take a look at that. Approval minutes, October 13th meeting.
- Greg: [inaudible] moved.
- Joe: Second.
- Bob: [crosstalk].
- Peter: All in favor?
- Group: Aye.
- Peter: Opposed? So carry. Okay. We got some honored guests tonight. I believe it's Lisa and Gail. Are they both here, Jennifer?
- Lisa: Yes. Hi.
- Jennifer: They're both here.
- Gail: We're both here.
- Peter: Okay. So it's the bio control of... How do you say that? Swallow-wort?
- Lisa: Swallow-wort.
- Gail: Swallow-wort.
- Peter: Okay. So thank you so much for being here and I believe you're going to take the floor right now.
- Gail: Okay. Lisa you're presenting first, correct?
- Lisa: Yes. Jennifer. Am I all set to share?

Jennifer: Yes, you should be all set.

Lisa: Okay. Thank you. [inaudible]. Okay. Is that... Can you see that?

Jennifer: No.

Lisa: [inaudible]. Okay. [inaudible]. All right, let me try. Now?

Peter: There you go.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Lisa: Okay, good. So this is a long project for me. We had a graduate student that started working on this project back in 2005. So I could talk forever on this. I'm going to try to talk for like five or 10 minutes and give you a chance to ask questions. I'm okay with people interrupting, if it's easier that way or we can deal with them at the end. I'm going to give a little intro and the history background on the project and Gail is going to give them more specific information about your site. So swallow-wort, black swallowwort or pale swallow-wort, which is what you have at your site, they're both either in the genus Vincetoxicum or Cynanchum depending on the botanist you talk to. But they're related to milkweeds and they're an invasive plant that we started being aware of in Rhode Island in the late nineties.

And it was really noticeable along the coastline in Jamestown, Rhode Island and places like that. Now it has moved into more inland areas but this is a typical situation where it's a real problem is in a pasture. That's what I get brought to most of the time in Rhode Island is pasture that's being overrun by this vine. This is in Charlestown, Rhode Island. We have another one in Jamestown, a beautiful historic farm right on the water and they have an awful time. This place luckily is a land trust and they're not trying to feed animals on it but the one in Jamestown they have been for over 20 years trying to control it. So just to show you one of the easiest ways when the plant is flowering to tell between the two because otherwise the leaves look pretty similar but black swallow-wort actually has a darker, deeper color than the way it shows up right here on the screen. But it's more dark, dark purple, which I think is what the black comes from.

And then the pale swallow-wort is a pale pink. And I think the color here is pretty accurate. Plants native to Europe. And it's, as I said in the milkweed family, it's a perennial and it has a vining growth habit. Since it's related to milkweed, some of those things are similar to milkweed. Like these pods look similar to milkweed pods and the way the seed disperses is by wind like with milkweed. But some of the problems with it is that it can grow... It has a very strong root crown and if you mow it, it'll just say, thanks for the haircut and then just grow back more than what you had before. Crazy root crown, where you were dividing roots all the time and to feed our colony of insects that we work with.

So I'm very familiar with these roots, so it doesn't really even need the seeds to spread but it has seed dispersal as well. So monocultures once they develop shade out native plants and again I mentioned pastures. It has a glycoside in the roots, it's toxic to livestock and even the leaves are toxic as well. So it's not good when it gets into pastures. And then there's a picture of a monarch in the lower part of this. And one of the things one of our graduate students realized is that monarchs were laying their eggs on swallow-worts. If there were swallowworts growing in a field of milkweeds and she found that in various lab and cage situations, they might lay up to as many as 20% of their eggs on swallow-worts. And then when the larvae hatch they die soon afterwards, they aren't able to feed on this plant, it's too toxic.

So it ends up being another problem that the monarchs don't really need. So this is the insect that we focused on. There are a couple of moths that were found in the part of... What we do is called classical biological control. And when you have an introduced species like this weed swallow-wort that has come from another country or another continent you look for the natural enemies in the place of origin that might help you here. And so there were about five different species that were found there in this foreign exploration part of classical biological control. But two moths were found to be worth looking into first. And what you do and we biological controls called host range testing. And so you want this moth because its caterpillars feed on swallow-wort but you don't want to work with something that's going to feed on other plants.

And so you have to test plants and make sure that the caterpillar's won't feed on it. And this insect was found in Ukraine. And here's a little bit about where it was found. It was found in a wooded area. So not in an open pasture like I was showing, it is pale swallow-wort. And at that time the insect they hadn't... And nobody had recorded what host plant it fed on. So not much was known about this insect. So Aaron Weed who did this research with us had to really find out a lot about the biology. And so we found out its life cycle. It can have multiple generations a year and then overwinter as this pupa which is this brown thing in the lower left. The eggs are very small on the underside of the leaf.

The larvae have a couple of different ways that they protect themselves. One is that they're a bit cryptic. They look just like the leaf they're green and as it goes through different stages, they're kind of speckled and a little bit yellow. So they can hide. And then they also have a wiggle response where if you walk into the field and watch the leaves, they'll fall to the ground so nothing can eat [inaudible]. So there's host range testing or host specificity that I mentioned, we tested 79 species and we tested 48 of them in the family of Apocynaceae, which is the one that includes milkweeds. And we tested about 20 different species of milkweeds because those are what we'd be most concerned about impacting. And none of them were fed upon. We also chose a few plants like mugworts and [inaudible]? Stinging nettles-

Gail: Those are nettles.

Lisa: Yes. Yes. Stinging nettles. And that was because some of the insects we were interested in, related species fed on those. So the list started with a smaller number and gradually added as we learned more about the system. So it was a bit... We started in 2006 is when insects were first brought into our lab. We have a small quarantine facility in the university of Rhode Island, which allows us to do this kind of work. And there's a whole system of what you have to do, how you submit the petition for release. And that happened around 2011 to 2012. And then it took till the end of 2013 for this technical advisory group to say that the data was good and that it would look like a safe insight. And once they did that, Canada, went through and within a couple of weeks got a permit to release.

And so they released in, well, actually 2014 was their first real release. It took us in the US until 2017 because we had to go through another process with the fish and wildlife, US fish and wildlife. And that's primarily to protect against any problems with endangered and threatened species. So when we got our permit in 2017, we first made releases just in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. And this is in Massachusetts on Naushon and there we were able to do it. And then we tried setting up cages in an area with sun and shade on both pale and black swallow-wort. And we were trying to test the theory that since this insect was found in a wooded ravine that it might do better in the shade and not as well in the sun, which wasn't going to be good for some of our black swallow-wort.

But this is the setup in Charlestown. Unfortunately, I found out that this cage on the left was only partly in the sun. So the next year we moved one further out and we ended up having a shade part sun and all sun. We did get damage in the cage. We released larvae and they were able to feed and cause some damage. But looking at this graph, you can see that this is the percent of damaged leaves on the left. So that's what the height is. And in the full sun, the red line we had very little damage, the partial sun, that blue line, we had more but the best or the most feeding damage occurred in the shade. And so from then on, we've been trying as much as possible to make our releases in the shade.

This is just one of the best damage pictures or defoliation pictures I have inside one of our release cages of at Arnold Arboretum. And this is out in Jamestown, the pasture I was talking about. So the picture on the lower left shows what small larvae do, they cause like window pane feeding and in the lower right you start to see chewing damage that's from the larger larvae. So mainly what we've learned from then till now, we've made additional releases, we aren't having much success with establishment yet. And one of the things... And the reason that we use cages isn't because we don't have permission to make a full release, we do but it's because it's a moth species that can fly pretty far. And so we want to be able to at least have a certain part of the lifecycle that we can watch and see what's happening and really know if this is working or not.

So after the first couple of years we decided that releasing would work much better also with some information from our colleagues in Canada. And so we released adults and we released them mainly in the shade, put these cages in the shade if we could. And then we also realized that anything we were doing in July was too hot and we were

having high mortality with the larvae. So we're gradually trying to move to release between mid-May and mid-June. And then another researcher gave us some additional information that if you have small larvae that are beginning to feed in the field but their day length is too long, it's over 15 hours, they're going to go right into diapause. And you're not going to get another generation. We were hoping to get at least two generations a year to build up a population.

And so that's another reason for releasing early. But when we... After we release adults, they lay eggs and you get some feeding and you see this damage, the cage comes off and the larvae have been successfully dispersing. So now we just need to get... Find more moths that have successfully overwintered or see the larvae that results from them and see more damage. And I just want to throw this in because a little thing that arrived in 2018 was a fungal pathogen on swallow-worts, which could be very interesting. We don't know yet if it's a pathogen that could help to manage swallow-wort or not but we have a new graduate student who's looking into that. And here's just a close-up of what happens at the very end of the season, that fungal growth you can see on the lower surface of the leaf on the right. And we have some colleagues at the USDA helping us with this and thank you. And I'm going to turn it over to Gail for some more site-specific info for you-

Peter: Thanks Lisa.

Lisa: ... [crosstalk] answer questions or we'll both answer them afterwards maybe.

Peter: I'd say afterwards Lisa.

Lisa: Sounds good. And I will stop sharing.

Gail: Okay.

Peter: Thank you, Lisa.

Lisa: You're welcome.

Jennifer: You're on mute.

Bob: Yeah. We got the screen share but-

Gail: Okay, now you can hear me, correct?

Bob: Yes.

Speaker 10: Yes.

Gail: Okay good. So I'm Gail Reynolds from UConn Extension and we've had a long history of collaborating with Lisa in the biological control lab at URI. So I'm going to tell you about

the field implementation specifically on regional water property. And we started this project and Connecticut in 2019 but it was... I wasn't involved yet. I didn't become involved in 2019 and 20. And Lisa had already been contacted I believe by Josh, Tracy and a few people. And I sent out an email or something to the Connecticut Land Trust Listserv, looking for sites. And I was contacted by Josh again and we didn't get together soon enough to do a release but we had looked at a place that look... Was good, the shady and all that but it was a little hard to get to.

So this year Josh decided he found a better spot. So let me... And again, these are things that here's pale swallow-wort, here is, I think this is the fourth instar and here's implementation. So what you have to do is, you determine the release site, you do the release, then you monitor, you put the cage up, as Lisa showed you. Then you take the cage down when it's really defoliated within the cage, then you do a post cage monitoring and then their subsequent years. So criteria of course, extensive black or pale swallow-wort infestation and the release site, you'd like to have field edge with dappled sun or more shade and direct sun. And we were also looking most... All the releases had prior to this had been on black swallow-wort and we were looking for pale swallow-wort and this is pale swallow-wort.

So I met Josh in the field in July and we identified a potential release site. And this was our original release site on the east side of Lake Gaillard and this is what it looked like. Then in 2021 Josh found a better site and it's much easier to get to. I don't know that I could have found my way back to that first site but here it is. This is... We didn't release here in the sun. We picked this area, in the shade here. And I applied for the regional water authority permit for the activity and it was granted. So given that we had to wait for 2021 where we can actually do an implementation. So here we are, here are the moths.

There were 20 males and 20 females. And here we have Lisa and her crew putting the cage together. There were a lot of moving pieces to that but it can be done pretty easily. So we go into the cage release the moths and some of them have already mated, some of them have yet to mate. And there are little apparatus in there that measures like the environmental conditions. So you can see what that is. And they are checked weekly to gauge the progress. The moths mate the females lay the eggs, the eggs hatch and then the larvae feed on the swallow-wort as they continue to grow. And this, we have a sign up here, explaining what it is in case anybody might get interested in what's happening. And here we have a standardized data collection and then I said the environmental conditions are monitored via instrumentation that's set up. And here's my trusty clipboard.

Last year, I tried to do it through an online app and it wasn't as successful so I went back to the clipboard. And here, sometimes like the first week, you'll find some adults that are still there. They haven't mated and died. So here's an adult, here's some very early light feeding right here. Very small caterpillar's, they're hard to find sometimes because as Lisa said, they're the same color as the foliage so they blend right in. And I'm not a great photographer so none of the pictures of the small ones that I did came up. But

then as you come back the next week and you can see there's even more defoliation going on. And even if the caterpillars, even if you don't find them you can see their poop here and that indicates that they're there. And here when it gets this defoliated then you know it's time to remove the cage.

So in subsequent years you visit the site, you assess the defoliation and you search for signs of the moth *Hypeninae opulenta*, either the moth itself or the caterpillar's in different life stages. Because and as Lisa mentioned, sometimes it gets confusing. I checked again like later in the year and you start to have senescence, which is just the death of the leaves that happens every fall anyhow. And there's also the fungus that appears. So if the leaves are not looking good, it could be because of the caterpillar defoliation but it could also be from something else. So that requires observation. And that's my presentation. So if you have questions

Peter: Thank you Gail.

Bob: Yes. Thank you.

Brian: This is Brian [inaudible], I've got a couple of questions. If the caterpillar doesn't really survive full sun, how much of the swallow-wort infestation is full sun, how much is shade? And in terms of a long-term control situation is that going to really be able to do the job?

Lisa: Yeah, that's an excellent question. And that's one of the things that we had thought as we were starting our experimental releases to see that. So in pale swallow-wort or in areas that are in the shade it will do pretty well. And one of the things about biological control is I do like to think of it as working in the background or sort of in addition to other methods. And so in the shade it could help manage the population, on field edges and these kinds of waste areas that people aren't going to be actively controlling. So I think it's still worthwhile for that focus but because of this situation that it doesn't handle the full pasture areas or at least as of yet we don't think it will. There are people that are investigating other potential insects that might take over, you know, one of the other things is defoliation.

Like this insect [inaudible] can eventually [inaudible] plants but it isn't... It can take a while. You know how gypsy moth can defoliate for years, sometimes before actually killing a tree. Well, even with something like swallow-wort, it's not a tree but it still has quite a root system that can continually regenerate new plants. So something that's a root feeder, there were a couple of insects that were root feeders. The initial research show that they might be not specific enough but there's a little bit more research being done on that. So it's a very good question. And the answer is that probably this is not going to be the silver bullet that we all hoped for but we do hope that it can have some long lasting management impact.

Peter: Thanks Lisa.

Greg: [inaudible] these moths do damage to other plants that perhaps you don't want [crosstalk].

Lisa: No, that was the list of 79 plants that we tested. That included all the plants that we thought were very close relatives. So there's a number. So it's interesting when you look up information about this plant you'll find it listed in a couple of different genera, the Vincetoxicum it's a European plant and in Europe they use that. So we didn't have any other plants in that genus in the US but we have some in the genus Cynanchum which is what people in the US attribute to this plant. And so we tested anything in that genus. And then we tested, like I said, about 40 different plants in the same family and about 20 in the genus [inaudible] because we're very concerned, one of the most common plants and obviously one of the most valued plants that grows in pastures with swallow-wort are milkweeds. And so these insects don't feed on milkweeds at all. They have different chemicals, different chemistry, so they have different insects that will feed on them. So a very good question. And that's really the first thing we have to answer when we do this kind of research.

Peter: Thank you.

Greg: Are these plants located throughout the United states?

Lisa: Yes and no. Not quite the whole US, from Michigan East, definitely and a little bit in the south but not in the west, I don't think. If you look at the map, I think that there's some California. I think it's a good part of the US but not all of it.

Brian: How quickly are these plants taking over? Some of the invasive species I know come in and sweep through and in two or three years we'll lose all the Ash trees, we'll lose [inaudible] disease. How quickly or is this particular swallow-wort tail plant spreading, is it spreading really fast or is it in localized spots?

Lisa: So, I'll give you the places that I know in Rhode Island as an example. So it was in the late nineties, around 98, 99 that we found it in Watson Farm in Rhode Island. And we hadn't really seen it anywhere else. Now it's throughout almost all of Rhode Island and in places like Watson Farm and the other places where we found it first, it's definitely a monoculture. There's a couple places like I have one in Block Island that I'm familiar with where it was taking over a pasture. And I gradually saw a goldenrod and narrowly the goldenrod start to out-compete it a little bit. So there are places and there are situations where maybe it isn't going to have full reign but in others, other places in Block Island, they're having terrible trouble with it. And it's in some places, the number one plant, invasive plant, the people are concerned about. So I say, it's not the same as something like an [inaudible] which is what you were mentioning, killing Ash but it's a it's a serious problem for land managers [crosstalk].

Gail: Sorry.

Lisa: Go ahead Gail.



Gail: It out competes our native milkweeds very easily. I've seen places like land trust preserves where originally it was almost all common milkweed, *Asclepiadis syriaca*. And after a few years there are very few of the native milkweeds left and it's all swallow-wort. And one of the nicknames for swallow-wort is dog strangling vine. And even though it's not woody, when it is growing season it's this thick monoculture that you can barely slog through-

Lisa: One of the thoughts of that name is it might also refer to the toxicity.

Gail: That too. That too. Yes.

Peter: John, did you have a question?

John: Yeah. I want to... Suzanne I want to make a statement or partially answer Brian's and then I had a question for Lisa and Gail. Is that on our property, I would... Although you can find it in many places most of those places aren't that thick but the three places where you can find very strong infestations of swallow-wort are at Saltonstall on the East Haven side, up on the Ridge Road that goes from down on 95 all the way up to [inaudible] road. Is almost the entire... It's both sides of the woods road from one end to the other and it is thick as Gail described. The other one is where Gail described had for her release sites at Gaillard. And that is again on the side of the road for the Lake Road. It's some of it's gone off into the woods as well but it's mainly still the thickest parts are still along the Lake Road. Then finally the one place I've seen in great numbers is in Brian's town, in Bethany. We have a couple fields on either side of downs road and it is thick in there.

In the downs roads fields it has some competition with common Milkweed, Goldenrod, Poison Ivy everything else is in that field. But so it's not as a monoculture there but in the other two places, Gaillard and Saltonstall, it's partial shade at least for all shade because it's underneath the canopy. For the fields in Bethany, it is open and why we do have the new guy who is going to be cutting the fields eventually. What he won't be able to get to where the rock walls are along the side of the road. And that is where the swallow-wort thickest along Downs Road. So my question was for Lisa and Gail, is that talking about the fungus, how many locations have you seen that fungus attacking the swallow-wort?

Lisa: So I would have to say that at this point I'm seeing it to some degree almost everywhere I go. Some of that depends on the time of the season because it isn't really visible early but it becomes visible later in the season and it's hot. The heat and humidity causes it to grow more and to spread. I'm not visiting every place. I let Gail answer after me. But I have the one site in Charlestown both in 2018 when I first found it and this year, I really saw towards September the whole field looking killed from it. Now it didn't look quite as bad in 2019 and 20. And some of that could be due to the environmental conditions, the temperature, whatever. Once we feel that we've got a good way to identify exactly what it is, name it and how to identify it quickly. Then I'm going to try to do a survey and see if we do have it everywhere. But I have colleagues in New York and Michigan that have

seen it and shown me pictures. And I've also seen it places in Massachusetts, as well as Connecticut.

Gail: Yeah, I've seen it in every site, both release and control sites, that I monitor. And I think that this year because we had so much rain and it was really hot. I think that that caused it to really blossom. And I don't mean blossom in a figure in a literal sense [crosstalk]. But it's not an accurate biological term for Fungus. [crosstalk]. So I saw it everywhere but I don't know that it's actually killed swallow-wort for good. We haven't found that yet.

Lisa: No, I didn't mean that it killed the roots or anything but there's a difference. So some of the spots that we can see. So there's a leaf spot that's on swallow-wort and that's present in Europe and it was at least recorded once in Texas years ago. But that's a leaf spot and that shouldn't really cause too much problems. And I think I've seen that all along working on this plant but have noticed it more in the fall and haven't really seen it do anything too dramatic. It gets worse as the plants [inaudible]. But what happens now is that there's a growth on the underside of the leaf and it eventually turns very white and it looks almost like a Downy Mildew. And so that is what has caused this blackening and blighting where everything above the ground looks dead. And so I don't know what impact it has. We obviously next spring get plants again but that's what we want to look at it and it's a good Masters student project, having them try to find out.

John: Excuse me, did you see evidence of the fungus at Gaillard?

Gail: Yes [crosstalk]?

John: Okay.

Brian: This is Brian. Just out of curiosity, are there any other control options for this plant? Obviously we can't use chemicals into widespread areas by our water supplies and stuff but-

Lisa: Repeated mowing, repeated cutting can have an impact. Digging is really difficult, obviously you could do that. But the best way when you read all the guidelines on how to do it is repeated mowing and herbicides. So if you can't use herbicides, then you do the best you can with repeated mowing. But it's difficult. Especially if you're starting with a very heavy infestation.

Brian: Wouldn't that also though take out the native Milkweeds as well though?

Gail: [crosstalk]. If they're growing next to... Within the swallow-worts then, yes.

Lisa: Yes.

Peter: Any other questions? Anyone? Mark Levine. I guess not.

- Mark: Informative discussion. [inaudible].]
- Peter: Hold on. I can't you Mark. Go ahead.
- Mark: I said very informative presentation. Thank you very much.
- Lisa: You're welcome.
- Peter: I agree if there's no more questions for Lisa and Gail, I want to thank you both for being at our meeting tonight and giving us that information. It never ceases to amaze me how intense it is to be part of Regional Water and Land Use and learn all these things.
- Gail: I'd like to thank Josh and John for letting us release on the water company property. So...
- Lisa: And thanks for the invitation to speak about it.
- Gail: Yeah.
- Bob: No, thank you. [crosstalk].
- Lisa: And if you have further questions, you have our email addresses, so...
- Peter: Correct.
- Gail: Don't be shy.
- Peter: Thanks so much.
- Lisa: Take care. [crosstalk].
- Gail: Bye-Bye.
- Peter: All right, gang. Very interesting. Wish we were all in person to discuss it a little more it was deep. Anyways we're going ahead with our regional water updates, John.
- John: Yup. So Jen has put the monthly update on the screen there. At the end of October, we were at 87% last year at this time where it's 65 below the long-term average. The rainfall for October was about normal for the first couple of weeks. And then we got a hamburger with a lot of rain towards the end. So we had about double the long-term average rain that we normally see in October. And had about four and a quarter inches last year. So for the fiscal year, we are about nine inches above where we normally are at this time. Land we need for the water we use program. I've mentioned this last month for the O'Hare property. We acquired four acres there from the O'Hara's off of 200 Little City Road. And that was a condition of their getting planning and zoning approval.

So all that has been done and Alex took care of the QFR and the 490 application was sent to the assessor. We talked to property owners and Cheshire through Madison about possible acquisition and protection of property for the Beech street and Poms La. properties and before and foray received all the updated appraisals and corresponded with North Branford land conservation trust staff about the next steps forward. For the pressure reducing valve that is inside of the road of route 80 in New Haven. We corresponded with board of education staff in New Haven to restart the discussion about acquisition of an easement that's on the... Especially Ross, I think it's Woodward Ross the school's called now. On their school grounds off of Barnes avenue. So a lot of advantages to us, if we can get an easement over a piece of that school property that they don't really use it's way on the far end because it would help us out tremendously. Access to the current PRB industry is highly problematic.

For the rental houses 955 street, we sent final return materials or got the final materials for Martha. So I sent a bit to purchasing. We had the pre-bid meetings yesterday and today only had a couple of people show up that was very disappointing but we're going to be moving on. The bids will be opened on the 6th of December. 1029 Johnson Road in Woodbridge. We talked to the Tarlowskis about their plans and discussed it with the preservation Connecticut staff. And they had several comments. And then I brought those comments back to the Tarlowskis. So we're still going back and forth with them about that. At 59 Roman Road, we approved a request for work by the homeowner there. For forestry update, no. Nothing really new because it's not nothing that's in bold there. However Alex has been busy doing tours, giving tours to people from various groups and so forth. Hosted a walk with deep people in north Madison where the timber sales going and he's had the slash wall.

And that was for a Masters Woodland program at about 35 people there. And he hosted an open land trust and legislator walk out at the same location that had about 40 people. He met with Dr. Frazier from DEEP to set up acoustic monitoring for stations that's looking at how bats use the areas around the Gaillard where he's hoping to do some cutting. And he also met with UConn remote sensing team to discuss future projects in the next fiscal year. Finally, he attended a Guilford Inland Wetland meeting for timber harvest that's coming up later this fiscal year.

Joe: John, just a quick... What locations were those in Maddison?

John: You mean his meetings?

Joe: Yes.

John: They were both at the same spot where he's doing the timber sale, Eastern route 79 west of Summer Hill road, north of Nathan's Pond.

Joe: Okay.

John: Recreation. Nicole had a climate change walk at Saltonstall, had 22 people. Alex did another walk at Lake Gaillard for the land trust that had over 50 people. Nicole did another walk for tree and trouble identification for the North Branford recreation department. 18 people showed up for that. The Water Wagon attended three events in the month of October. It was brought to another event but upon arrival they found out that the event was not taking place and they were never notified. Boats ended at Lake Saltonstall on October and the docks were removed. And 1900 wildlife fingerlings were delivered to Lake Saltonstall and released. And at Lake Gaillard, we had our annual Walkathon fundraiser. It was restarted after a hiatus in 2020. For the Branford women's club had 162 walkers and they made a donation to the watershed fund of over \$800. For permit holders at the end of October, we were up 5,366. Last year at this time we were 5,758 and we are down slightly about 304 from this time last month.

So it's that view of the COVID spike sort of coming back. Recreation special activity permits only three in the last month. Nothing spectacular to talk about there so other items. Encroachments agreements. For the agricultural agreements, we signed a license agreement with Carissa Calgano for use of one of the Downs Roads fields. And I talked to two other potential farmers in the last month. At Maiden Lane and Seymour one of the [inaudible] has a rental house that he used to live there. Then we started renting it out and he used our property for a parking space. He has indicated to us that he's selling the property, which terminates the license agreement and he won't... So he's not renewing it. The next people who buy the property have to come to us to get that same permission.

At 167 Saltonstall, this is where they did all the damage off of route one in Branford. We provided all the documentation to Martha about what damage was done and what remediation was taking place. And we included all the invoices so that they can go contact the insurance company for [inaudible]. You got a good talk today from Gail and Lisa. Other things that we did in the last month, Charter Oak, went and cleared the fields at Downs road, one of the ones that we rented out. And then Josh documented and treated invasive populations in East Haven, Branford, Woodbridge and prospect. We recorded the final day of data collection for the stilt grass plots in prospect. And they attended a zoom meeting with folks from UConn to discuss drone use and possible use of LIDAR on drones to measure how many invasive plants are in an area by doing a fly over with it. And then processing that data. And then also periodically checked on spotted lanternfly traps on Saltonstall Ridge. Which has a lot of [inaudible] which is a popular host plant for those insects. So in the last month he documented over 21 acres and treated over seven.

Brian: [inaudible].

John: I'm sorry, say that again?

Brian: Did we see any of the Spotted lantern fly? I know you said he checked.

John: No, he hasn't seen any. They did [inaudible] experiment station said that they found that a population in Cheshire in the last couple of weeks. Unfortunately when the [inaudible] experiment station says it's been found in Orange, it's been found in Cheshire, they don't get specific about where these things are.

Brian: I know that.

John: So unfortunately we don't know if it's near our property or if it's quite far. A deer hunt, it actually started the last day of October [inaudible]. Scarring period occurred in October. We're still talking about October here and Nicole continued to mark the boundaries. It did start on October 30th and is in full swing as we speak. The Beech avenue water main issue in East Haven corresponded with Martha about getting a draft easement for the property owners down along there and what remedies we can do if we don't get complete agreement with all the property owners. I should say also as an update from what you see here is that Ted Szczech has been working with and looking at other alternatives to get to these people instead of coming down Minor Road, which is what our first initial option was. The Olin property where we transferred the option, a conditional option to buy 88 acres.

We were alerted by the Hand and Land Conservation trust attorney that Olin staff claimed that we relinquished the option in 2005. I researched this going mostly through Tom Chapel, it's filed and found no evidence. There was one email that was even remotely close but it wasn't what they are saying. So we sent this information back to the land trust lawyers and let them know they were going to contact Olin to have Olin produce any proof of our relinquishing the option but I don't think it existed. We filed on land records and there was nothing. Finally we talked about this at the pizza party last month and that prompted me to contact Vince Marino at Bethany to find out what the status of the partial discontinuance of Bear Hill Road was. So after I contacted him then he sent me the documents from the town that showed that it had been passed by the town. That the selectmen and that is basically only discontinuing the road to motorized vehicles. That was the big thing. So I have all that and that is now our vault. A couple articles for you to read this month and that is it for my update. Any questions?

Greg: And John, this is Greg, how many deer have been killed so far?

John: I do not know. I did not ask Nicole that. I know there've been several harvested but I don't know the number. I have actually asked her to come to the December meeting to give an update on that. So this time next month we will be able to answer that question in full.

Greg: When does it end?

John: Ends at the end of this month.

Greg: Okay, thank you.

John: Yep.

Peter: Thanks, John. John, I have a question on Bear Hill Road and maybe Brian you're listening in, how close is that to Miller road?

John: It's parallel to it but offset.

Peter: Okay. And what was the reason for or maybe Brian can answer why Bethany close that?

Brian: Well it's been closed for almost 50-60 years. It's was never officially discontinued because there was some property owners in Beacon Falls who thought they were going to want to have it. Because where it's discontinued runs up against the backside of that proposed development. So Beacon Falls has a square cut where Miller Road ends. Beacon Falls comes down a little bit so that, if you can see my hands, there's a little piece of Beacon Falls it goes a little further down from Miller Road and stuff. And so the Beacon Falls border is just about on that road.

John: It is right on it. It's not... Excuse me. When you're at the gate at Bear Hill road, it's all Bethany. You're standing in Bethany. But as you travel north on the right of way for Bear Hill Road, it becomes that it's on the line between Beacon Falls and Bethany and it goes back and forth over it. So the way that the resolution was adopted and worded from the Bethany [inaudible], it says that we are only discontinuing the road that is situated in Bethany. It really had nothing to do with Beacon Falls but the way the rock sometimes the down line is right for the middle of the road. So it's only really applying to half of it. Other times it's all in Bethany, other times it's all [crosstalk]-

Brian: ... it branches to the road, other than footpath, other than on the Bethany side, on either side of the road. So [inaudible]. So there would be no possible entrance from Beacon Falls. But Beacon Falls I think was way back when one of the owners in Beacon Falls was concerned about having a secondary exit. And so that's one of the roads that we're looking at.

John: Correct.

Peter: That's what I'm getting at. And it's interesting, Vincent Marino, I know this isn't a place to speak but he's the attorney of Bethany and the attorney of Beacon Falls. A little conflict, no?

Brian: Yes I thought so too.

Peter: The interesting this whole project up there it's still in the-

Brian: So when we were looking at it, Peter, it was first tried to be abandoned. I had some documents way back in 1920s, 1930s.

- Peter: Yeah. Let and you we'll talk later, Brian. Because I have a question on Miller Road but it's something else.
- Brian: Sure [crosstalk]. Give me a call anytime.
- Peter: All Right. Okay. So any more questions for John?
- Joe: Here I have one for John or Ted. I received in the mail twice in the last week, something from something called HomeServe, they apparently sell you insurance to protect you from the pipeline to your house. Something that's maybe in competition with what you're doing at the present time in New Haven or whatever.
- Ted: Yes. Joe, this is Ted. Yes, it is. There's several organizations that are doing exactly the same thing. And it happened to me for quite a long time. So we do have compensation in our old service area, as well as other communities throughout the state have the same thing going on.
- Joe: Well, the interesting thing here is that they're telling me that I have an original rail line that's 56 years old on County Road. And as far as I know everybody that is north of the circle and probably a good many south of the circle has their own roads. So I called them the tone that I think that they're geographically in the wrong location. And they said, "Well, how about a signaling." I said, "We have... We take care of that also." So this particular company apparently tries all kinds of things and they're easy payment. They crossed out their monthly payment of \$7.48 and made it \$3.74 a month. I don't know how long that's supposed to be good for but they said that it would probably take three to four weeks to get my name taken off their list.
- Ted: That it must have a lot of bad data if they think you opened north Madison.
- Joe: Thought it was kind of interesting.
- Ted: Thanks Joe.
- Peter: Thank you, Joe. Any other questions?
- Greg: Yes. Hey Ted, how's our new venture doing with the Wells service?
- Ted: I'm really not the one to answer that, Greg. I'm sorry.
- Greg: Okay. All right.
- Ted: It might come with maybe it's something to bring up with the authority meeting next week or the RPB next week.
- Peter: There you go. Okay.



- Greg: I have one question for John. John, the guy in the window behind you, is he alive? Because he hasn't moved since we were...
- John: That's a... I don't know if you've ever watched the Office on TV but this is the Office background [crosstalk]. That's Stanley behind me here. There he is. He's often falling asleep at his desk, so he may be powering down for the night.
- Peter: He looks awake.
- Mark: Hey, I got-
- Peter: Good observation.
- Mark: What's going on with our police force? How many police officers do we have now? Somebody told me that we're down to one police officer. Is that true?
- Ted: One officer and Captain Ruggiero.
- Mark: How come?
- Ted: I've got a couple on leave and I'm not sure if they're going to keep the model of policing or not where...
- Mark: So what you're saying is they're going to get rid of... They're thinking about getting rid of the police force and going to...
- Ted: I don't want to say that. I don't know. I think that's maybe putting words in my mouth. I don't know what they're doing with the police force.
- Peter: Yeah, you guys are all hitting poor Ted. This is all regional water next month or next week's questions we can ask.
- Mark: Hey, all drums don't put me down.
- Peter: I have no problems. Geez. I might've been [crosstalk]-
- Mark: Those guys patrol our land. And so the police force is part of us.
- Peter: Okay. You're right. You're right. But I think we need to bring that up at the next meeting. Don't you?
- Mark: You want to run for selectman again you'd better be nice to me.
- Greg: He probably even doesn't want to run again.
- Peter: No, I'm running again. Don't worry about me.

- Greg: I want to give my condolences to Bob regarding his mom. Bob. I'm very sorry for your loss.
- Bob: Thank you very much.
- Peter: Yeah, we all are. All right. Anything else for John? All good questions. Sorry if I overstep my boundaries, mark. Any other land items? I believe... Anything. We all got the land use committee calendar meeting schedule. Hopefully we can keep to it. I would imagine if there's issues we would take care of them as they come.
- Mark: Jennifer, did you check these out? I don't know these dates off hand.
- Jennifer: I did, there were no Jewish holidays for the land use committee.
- Mark: Okay. I have to take you to a synagogue [inaudible].
- Peter: Mark... Hey, wait a minute. Mark you're Jewish? [crosstalk].
- Bob: John, with the April meeting being at 7:00. Are we hoping to have a recreation meeting?
- John: Good question. We discussed this meaning it was Dan, Doyle, Jeff and I is that we were not going to be doing the recreation annual meeting anymore. So the April meeting can fall back to 4:30 or 5:30 to a regular meeting. We never got a lot of turnout for the annual meeting. So we thought it was really not worth our time to keep doing that. Especially I mean, we stopped it when COVID started in 2020 and we didn't reinstate it this year and it looks like it's something that is better left for the history books and we can move on.
- Bob: Okay.
- Jennifer: So, what time do you want that meeting Peter or everybody?
- Peter: So what do you guys think? 5:30 okay.
- Bob: I don't know when the clocks are going to change again in the spring, off the top of my head.
- Greg: Can I just ask? May it's 4:30 and June's 5:30. And why 4:30 in May and 5:30 in June?
- Peter: I am open for discussion.
- Jennifer: Yeah. It's always been that way. That's why I put it there. Ever since I've worked here, these have been the times, so I kept them. You can change them if you want. I need to know.

- Greg: No, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter to me. I'm retired, so it doesn't make any difference. But I was wondering why 4:30, 5:30?
- Peter: Well listen, if there's any real issues, contact me or Jennifer we'll straighten it out. How's that? Okay.
- Brian: Just for reference daylight savings occurs. You go to it on March 14th. So by March 14th we'll be into daylight savings already.
- Bob: Okay. So we may be able to do April, probably at 5:30 without any problems.
- Peter: Yeah I would think so.
- Jennifer: I'll make that change.
- Peter: Make that change. Yeah.
- Jennifer: Okay.
- Bob: And I guess we're, I'm glad we're not highlighting that the October meeting is a pizza party.
- Peter: Why not?
- Bob: Well by then if things are going well, we may digress from pizza to something else.
- Peter: No, I think we should do better than pizza.
- Bob: Well, [inaudible] it's starting to sound like a politician. Like lobster rolls.
- Peter: There you go. No problem. All right. Love you all. I'll tell you. All right. So that's the calendar issue we addressed. Joe [inaudible], you're going to our November 18th meeting. You are our rep.
- Joe: Yes. What time? 12:30 or is one?
- Jennifer: It's at 12:30.
- Joe: 12:30.
- Jennifer: Yeah. I'll send you the documents the Monday before the meeting.
- Joe: Okay. Thank you.
- Greg: And Joe good luck [crosstalk].

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Brian: Peter, if you want to give me a call, I'm offline now. I've got about 20 minutes before I've got to go out.

Peter: I got to go to another meeting. [crosstalk].

Brian: Okay. Some other time then.

Peter: No. Yeah, we will. Believe it or not, they still love me at Beacon Falls. All right. Our next meeting is December 8th, 5:30... And that's my dog. Stop. And I need a motion to adjourn. [crosstalk]. All right, everyone take care. Good meeting. [crosstalk].

Mark: See you next week.

Peter: All right. Bye.

Jennifer: Good night everyone. [crosstalk].