

REPRESENTATIVE POLICY BOARD

LAND USE COMMITTEE

APRIL 10, 2024

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

Peter:

I am going to open the meeting. Our regular monthly meeting. April 10th, it is 05:30. Safety moment, everyone look at the safety moment. Any questions on the safety moment? I love spring because I love summer. It's a good sign, though.

How about approval of minutes?

Greg:

So moved.

Mike:

Second.

Peter:

All in favor?

Committee members:

Aye.

Peter:

Did you get that first and second?

Jennifer:

Yes.

Peter:

Okay. And we got Josh here today. It's your floor.

Josh:

All right. So I had written a memo for the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee that met last month. They had a few questions remaining in the meeting, but I wanted to come give you guys an overview of the memo that I provided them. Just a basic update on what has been going on in the invasive species world. I don't know how many of you are familiar with our Landscape Scale Restoration grant that we had won in 2022, but it was a joint effort between our forester, Casey, myself, John, members of DEEP and a few other organizations that we came together with and we wanted to start performing some management around a hibernaculum near Lake Gaillard.

This is an area that even up until now and into the future, we'll have [inaudible 00:03:55] much management around it because of the number of bats that utilize the pipe. It is a tunnel that connects Gaillard to Menunkatuc and Hammonasset.

But for a large portion of the connector, it's natural stone. So when they drilled it, there's concrete on both ends, but the internal portion has natural rock and cavities and whatnot that bats have been utilizing for decades and decades.

DEEP has found all native species of bats utilizing this hibernaculum, including two that are one, slated to be endangered and one that is endangered. So because of that, they restrict any sort of management that gets performed around this hibernaculum and it's come to a point where we want to better the environment for the bats and for water quality and for all the other things to do with the RWA. So in order to do that, we started talking to the bat biologist at DEEP and she said [inaudible 00:05:08] this data, we can look at where these bats are roosting, where they're utilizing trees and that sort of thing. And that led to us looking into this grant.

And so this grant, we asked for \$200,000. The grant allows us to hire interns for the next three years to help with invasive species control as well as forestry operations. It allowed us to purchase a steam weeder. This is a unit that is out of Australia that they have been testing to use upon parks and schools and places where they can't use herbicides. They want to basically burn grass using steam. So if you go, you can see a picture of what one of these units looked like. Our unit will not look exactly like this because kind of custom-built at this stage. This one has a solar panel on it, we're not getting a solar panel. But a company out of Maine is building us this unit. And so our hopes is that we can take it down our woods roads and we can experiment with burning Japanese Stiltgrass and Black Swallow-wort.

Peter:

We get to get this on the grant money or?

Josh:

Correct. So we included that into the grant. We said we're going to perform timber management and forest management around this hibernaculum. We need to be able to control the invasive's that lead up to it so we don't create a bigger mess. And so we said, well, this is Lake Gaillard, this is our Woods Road. We don't want to be using herbicides, but we need to experiment. We need to find out if there's other technology we could use. And so we took a Hail Mary, we included this into the grant and said this would be very interesting to know if this works. And the federal government said, sure, why not? We'll try it. So they authorize that as part of the package.

So that's something that we'll be getting at the end of April. It's being built in Maine right now. And so we're hypothesizing that it can burn the Stiltgrass in the same way that we might go out and use a weed whacker or something like that, except that the steam is projected to slow the growth to four month intervals. So after you steam it, it basically stops the growth for four months. Meaning if we can hit it at the perfect time where it hasn't produced seed yet, where we can burn it with the steam, we can get one of its life cycles out of the way and start burning the seed [inaudible 00:07:44]. So that's one aspect of the grant that's very interesting. So this will last three or four years, this grant, in the hopes that in collaboration with DEEP will have a better ecosystem for these bats to utilize and increase their population.

Peter:

Going back to the bats. You can get in this tunnel, correct? Is this tunnel where you're saying they ...

Josh:

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So we are not allowed to access this tunnel. Now, back in the seventies, DEEP accessed it to do surveys, but the current safety understanding-

Peter:

You can't get in.

Josh:

... says that it would be silly to go into the tunnel without having all kinds of approvals and safety protocols in place.

Peter:

Well, I was wondering that. It's old.

Josh:

Yes, but it is big enough that you can-

Peter:

Walk in it, right?

Josh:

Yes. To our knowledge, no one has ever been injured in it, but when you talk to Orville and our engineers, the litany of things that could go wrong is extensive.

Peter:

Oh no, Yes.

Josh:

The consequences of things going wrong is immeasurable. So you would need ... The bat biologist tried really hard to access it, and we basically told her she would need millions of dollars worth of safety protocols in place before we would even consider it. That would be a last-

Peter:

That was kind of my question.

Josh:

Yes. For the outcome of counting maybe dozens of bats in the tunnel. She's been using acoustical monitoring outside the tunnel to try to document how many bats are in the area.

Peter:

Can you send a drone through there?

Josh:

[inaudible 00:09:25] that did happen. They did do that, and we found out that probably wasn't a good idea. Because you don't want to have drones flying around where there are bats that could fly. But we've talked about, theoretically we could send a ... They have floating UAVs.

Sunny:

They have auto [inaudible 00:09:50] remote operated [inaudible 00:09:52]. So it's kind of submerged, half submerged. So to look at the tunnel, the structural integrity of the tunnel, we do send these auto [inaudible 00:10:01].

Peter:

How many bats do you think we have in there? [inaudible 00:10:05].

Josh:

They had some rough estimates back in the 70s and 80s. And the problem with these bats is that when ... There's a disease called white-nose syndrome that's been affecting a lot of these bats, and basically there's a fungus that grows on their nose, but it irritates them and all winter long they wake up from their hibernation and it makes them burn their supply. And so they die during the winter rather than just staying hibernated. So around the 80s, this started coming through and they stopped doing research on migratory bats and they started doing more research on these bats that hibernated. And so there's been a lack of estimation on a lot of the bats that are utilizing this hibernaculum because not only are bats hibernating there, but the summer bats that are migrating in are also utilizing it as a place to rest and whatnot.

John:

Now you saw the video from the drone, right?

Josh:

Correct.

John:

Yes. So the engineers hired a consultant to fly a drone down, and at the time we did not have the type of drone that would be able to do that. That's why they hired this guy. We now have a kind of drone that would do it, but it's still a dicey operation. If you hit something, it's in there. You're not getting a bat. So we told the DEEP biologist about this and we showed some of the video and you could see as it's going down ... Now they're looking at the tunnel for the tunnel's sake. But as it's going down, you could see, oh, there's a couple, there's a couple, there's a couple, there's a couple. And I didn't see the whole video. I don't know if you saw the whole video, but there are the dozens of bats that you just saw, just casually, not to mention as the camera's looking this way, you're only seeing the ones that are facing this way. There's probably more that you could see if you're facing this way. So there's a healthy population in there, no doubt.

Josh:

Yes. And there's cracks that go up deeper than the bats [inaudible 00:12:01]. Yes. Even from that video, she wasn't able to tell species or anything like that. You really need to walk up and observe them up

close, aside from the acoustical monitoring that she's doing, where she can say we heard a [inaudible 00:12:19] northern long-eared, so we're assuming it's utilizing this hibernaculum. We heard this other one, she can't say there's 10 of them in the hibernaculum because she might've heard it 100 times. So she estimates there's a few-

Greg:

What's the depth of the tunnel?

Peter:

What is the depth of the tunnel?

Josh:

The length or the ...

Peter:

How deep?

John:

Well it comes out at grade. It's all done by gravity. So it's just higher in Northford, comes through the mountain and then comes out at daylight. So it's not any ... It's deep when you consider what its depth is compared to the top of [inaudible 00:12:58] Ridge, which would probably be a couple hundred feet, but at both ends, you're basically walking out into sunshine.

Josh:

But at any given moment, the tunnel has probably five, six, seven feet of open air. And even on the highest flow days, it could fill up at the end if there's stuff that's blocking it, but it doesn't seem like it ever gets so high that it floods the bats out or kills them if they're in there. They're safe. It never submerges. It never fills up completely.

Peter:

Does that answer your question, John?

Josh:

It's never filled. It's never under pressure.

Greg:

Well, this is the same tunnel that is connected with Lake Hammonasset, correct?

John:

Yes. Actually I misspoke. Where the video was at the Big Gulph Tunnel, which connects all the Northford diversions to Lake Gaillard. And she may have looked at the one to Hammonasset and Menunkatuc too but the video that we saw was from Big Gulph. So that one's under hundreds of feet too, but it all still

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flows by gravity. In the end, how deep is it compared to the surface right above it, it varies by the topography of the land. A couple hundred feet at the most.

Josh:

Yes, so this is just, we're in the midst of looking at a couple interns to hire for this season. We have the jobs out, so we've been getting applications. We haven't decided to interview anyone yet, but if you know anyone interested in the outdoors and looking at having a temporary career here for seasonal work, we're looking for qualified people. And so this is just something to look forward to for the next three or four years. It's going to be an interesting project and we're hoping that we get a lot out of it.

Jamie:

This is Jamie. I just wondered, what's the job description for these internships? What did you post for a job description? Is it bat research or ...

Josh:

So we did not include anything about that because that's strictly for the bat biologists and her wildlife technicians. Last year, there potentially could have been an opportunity to work with the bat biologist, and we had included a little bit in the job description, but at this point we took it out because we were getting a lot of people that were more interested in the bat portion of the job and less interested in the vegetation management and invasive species management and just the forestry aspect of it. That would be what the job was predominantly meant to cover. So this time around we're more or less looking for people that probably have a bachelor's degree, have interest in going into forestry. I have interest in doing some invasive species management in the future and learning our ways of documenting trees and forest health and that sort of thing. It is on the RWA website if you have any interest in looking at the whole job description.

Jamie:

Thank you.

Josh:

You're welcome. So that's one big exciting thing that's been happening that a lot of people at the company's been involved with. Sending it to Michelle and we're working through all the kinks, working with the federal government in finding out what we can and can't do. So it's been a lot of work on that end. I've also been involving myself in a lot of committees and a lot of, especially with the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. So I've been working on symposium planning, there's a biannual or every two years, there's a symposium that we put onto the public, that is for the public and for professional. So we have high level presentations that teach about invasive species, teach about different things that have worked for other people in the state, whether it's through chemical means or mechanical means or through whatever.

We try to get the information out there because not only is it important for us at the RWA to be controlling invasives on our property, but it doesn't mean anything if our neighbors aren't also controlling invasive species and their neighbors aren't controlling invasive species. And so having people educated that these plants, you shouldn't be buying them from Home Depot, if they're available, you shouldn't be ordering them online. If you have them in your yard already, you should replace them with

native species. These are important things to get out because unless we're all doing something about it, it's going to make life a lot harder for the ones that are actively trying to do it like we are.

I've also been a part of a committee that we've been looking at the invasive plant list. So Connecticut has an invasive plant list that has about a hundred species on it that are banned from sale. So people from the public cannot find them at a nursery or a Walmart or things like that. And that's because they were deemed to have all of at least nine criteria that are considered invasive. I've been allowed to join the committee where we look at plants that are not on the list and we deem if those plants should be considered invasive. One of which you'll find on the next page, Japanese Angelica tree is a plant. *Aralia Elata* is the Latin name. We find it on a few of our properties. You can see it's a pretty awful looking plant. Every part of it has spines. The leaves have spines, the stem has spines.

There's a native species called devil's walking stick, which if you're familiar with, that's kind of Maryland south along the east coast. It was thought for a while that we had it here in Connecticut and there's been some botanists that have been looking at it and saying it's probably all the Japanese one. It's not the native one. That doesn't mean it can't grow here because we have very similar climate to Maryland. It may be moving north [inaudible 00:19:23]. But this was one that I brought forward because I find it on our property in places, and I ran it through the nine criteria. We all said, yep, this is an invasive. And so we put it forward to the Invasive Plant Council, which is a committee that's within the state that then pushes it up to legislate, to have legislative attention. And so as of I think a month ago, they deemed the nine species we brought forward as invasive and adding to the ban list.

So I'm actively trying to look at our property and find plants that are not on the invasive species list and wondering should these be considered invasive because we don't want them actively on the market and even if they don't make it to the list where we banned them completely, the state of Connecticut is not allowed to buy any plants that are on the invasive list. So even if it's not banned such as Japanese barberry, winged euonymus, these are plants that are incredibly invasive, but they're still on the list to be sold. Nurseries say that they need to sell them to make money. The state of Connecticut cannot purchase from that list. So we can at least get them on invasive list and even if they're not banned. There's a huge [inaudible 00:20:42] that's where a lot of money comes from, buying plants in the state of Connecticut for roadside things, wetland restoration and other things.

That's a brief overview of some of the more important things that I've been working on, aside from just the typical documentation of invasives and treatment of invasives and flying the drone around and taking pictures of cool stuff. So if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer some.

Greg:

This is [inaudible 00:21:12]. Does Japanese [inaudible 00:21:14] do these originate in Japan?

Josh:

Yes.

Greg:

They do.

Josh:

Yes. What's interesting is, a significant amount of our invasive species come from Asia. I've heard one big reason is because millions of years ago, the United States whilst in the Pangaea form was attached

with Japan and that Asian continent. And as we've separated, not only have we stayed latitudinally similar, but we have very similar soil types. And so a lot of our native species here, such as poison ivy has become invasive in Japan and vice versa with new Japanese species and considering we have the correct growing condition, but we don't have the same biological controls.

So these species have grown up, have evolved with flora and fauna of that continent. And once it's here, we don't have the same animals eating it, same insects eating it. So they get to flourish. And our native species are eating native species, so they leave behind the invasive species. So Yes, it's interesting to find out that certain things that we don't really care about here are very invasive in Japan. It's just that we're very similar climatically and the soil.

Greg:

Yes. I don't know what would eat the Angelica trees.

Josh:

I thought the same thing. I've always wanted to look up ... So our native deer will eat raspberry, we'll eat multi flora, rose, will eat a lot of things that you'd say why would you put that in your mouth.

John:

About the only thing that doesn't have thorns are the berries. Birds eat the berries.

Greg:

The berries.

John:

Birds eat the berries. Birds take it. They're pooping all over and that's how it gets spread.

Josh:

It's an amazing plant. These invasive species are incredible. They're able to withstand a lot and live in these intense conditions. So I give them a lot of credit, but they're also awful.

Joe:

How big does this Angelica tree get?

Josh:

It really doesn't get that big. The biggest one I've seen was probably three to four inches in diameter. It might get 12 to 15 feet tall. It gets shaded out pretty easily, but it grows in these areas that are open and our roadsides will have them, if they have a lot of sunlight. They grow rhizomatously, so they'll push out big, long spaghetti roots and new plants will sprout out of the new roots. So they spread very easily even without the seeds. So Yes, they don't get very big. But just like you mentioned, Japanese Stiltgrass is a very weak plant, but we just don't have anything that eats it or will kill it anyway.

John:

I think, and correct me if I'm wrong, that they're not very hardy. I think they die back during very hard winters, but we don't have very hard winters, so they just keep going.

Josh:

Right. [inaudible 00:24:19].

Jamie:

[inaudible 00:24:19] bamboo on the property, our property.

Peter:

Bamboo?

Josh:

Bamboo? That's your question?

Jamie:

Yes. Bamboo.

Josh:

We have at least one location that I know of where there's bamboo. It's a small property. Funny enough, bamboo is not considered an invasive species in Connecticut, and that's only because it doesn't spread by seed. It spreads anthropogenically. However, once it's established, it's incredibly invasive and difficult to deal with.

Peter:

Yes, it is.

Josh:

So we may have a few other places that I don't know about just because we abut property owners with bamboo and it's starting to spread onto the property a little bit, but it hasn't really been a huge concern for us in any capacity. It is awful to deal with though.

John:

Are you thinking about the place in North Haven?

Josh:

Yes.

John:

Yes. The location that Josh is referring to in North Haven, it wasn't even the neighbor who had the initial bamboo plant. It was like two or three properties down and it has slowly made it over four or five properties, including our property is like a thin strip between two roads. So it doesn't have much to get across our property, but it's gone onto the neighbor as well and it's going to keep going.

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In that particular location, the neighbor to our south, he has a license agreement to use part of our property for a lawn and he helps us keep that at bay as much as he can now. But without his help it would continue to advance-

Peter:

How do you get rid of the bamboo? You don't?

Josh:

Well, we have experimented on that with some herbicides and we couldn't touch it. The agricultural experiment station mentioned a concoction that you can use and it takes years to do it. They recommend that if you want to plant bamboo, that you basically have to put a four or five foot steel barrier buried in the ground or totally around the population because the roots can dig down pretty deep. I guess they don't go more than four or five feet but even then, it's like how much effort are you going to do to have this weird grass growing in your lawn?

John:

Isn't there a law that for not all bamboo species, but certain bamboo species-

Josh:

[inaudible 00:26:55] bamboo.

John:

... that you have to do that and you could be liable for damages if it injures or damages a neighbor's property if you put it in without those controls. But it's like one of those laws that who enforces it?

Josh:

Who enforces it, right? I mean, it's there. You can get payments for, I think \$100 a day for however long you have the bamboo there. They've got to treat it and all this stuff. They have a whole big paragraph. But again, Yes, who's coming out to ... No one's coming out to your house to check specific bamboo [inaudible 00:27:30]. It's there, so if someone wants to sue their neighbor, I guess they could try. But I've never heard of anyone successfully doing it.

Peter:

I've seen it come right through asphalt.

Josh:

[inaudible 00:27:42].

Peter:

Like nothing.

Mark:

Josh.

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Josh:

Yes.

Mark:

Josh. Can you hear me?

Josh:

I can.

Mark:

Since you started this more in depth invasive species attack, how many acres, inches, feet have we eliminated or are under control right now?

Josh:

Well-

Mark:

If you had to make a guess or [inaudible 00:28:08].

Josh:

It's really challenging to use the word eradicated or even controlled because a lot of this is still in the works. Some of these species have seed banks that are upwards of 25 years. So even I may be retired by the time some of the populations could be under control. But we've done treatment on roughly 500 acres. I've documented invasives over the course of maybe 4,800 acres on the property. Our goal with this grant is to hopefully treat another 400 or 500 acres within the next three years, utilizing these interns and the technology that we're getting. I'm having some pretty good success with having a contractor go out and pull barberry for us. Some of us have been to a site in Gaillard where I've had Stephen McCoskey go out with a machine and pull mature barberry and some of the sites that he's been to haven't grown barberry back in a couple of years, which is phenomenal for me. Because if you mow barberry, it comes back immediately the next year in full force, unless you treat it with herbicide. So there's-

Mark:

So we're making some progress?

Josh:

We're making progress and I'm learning better about where to focus energy that will have the most bang for our buck. If our forestry is working on a project, then that's where I want to be working on a project. I don't want to arbitrarily be treating something in no man's land that won't mean much to us. But if Casey is going to do a timber harvest somewhere, I want to be doing stuff to make that timber harvest as successful as possible and leave us without too detrimental of a invasive species load after he is done. So it's a-

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Mark:

Are you satisfied with the support that you're getting from the RWA financially and physically?

Josh:

Yes, so far. I mean it is been a lot of experimenting at this point. I don't even quite know. I've been doing some experimentation with Stephen to see how much it costs for him to control an acre of barberry. It's difficult to budget for certain things just because the density of certain invasive species. I've talked to John about this where there's areas where I can go out and cut 10 acres of vines in two hours, but if I was to spend that same two hours in a forest with barberry, I might clear 1/10th of an acre and it would only be a couple ... I'd spend days and days and days there to accomplish the same amount of control just because of the type of species it is.

Mark:

Listen, I'm so amazed. I'm so amazed how much you've grown onto this job and how far you've come and our invasive species department or wherever you want to fight, has gotten so much better since we first started. I'm very amazed.

Josh:

I appreciate it, Mark.

Mark:

I think you're doing a great job.

Josh:

We have room to grow, but we're getting there.

Mark:

All right, well good. Thank you.

Peter:

Thanks. Any other questions for Josh? Thank you so much ... Go ahead, Sunny.

Sunny:

Just going back to I think Joe's question earlier, I think the dimensions almost like six feet by six almost, right? So on the town dimensions, I think that's what you're looking for, right? So both the Genesee and Big Gulph, you're almost looking at between the lined and unlined portions. The lined is about six by six, so the unlined would be two to four feet more actually.

Peter:

Thanks, Sunny. All right, thanks so much Josh. John, you're up with the ...

John:

Sure. All right. For the update for March, we are completely filled with water. So if you need any, just go ahead and use the faucet, use the bubbler as much as you want. We are 100% full. Even Gaillard is filling at this time. Last year, we were at 98% and the long-term average is 91%. In March this year we had 9.57 inches of rain compared to last year's 3.83. And the long-term average is 4.34. So the 9.57 inches of rain makes it the third wettest march that we've had in our 113 year history at Lake Whitney. For the fiscal year we had 54.99 inches of rain. The last year we were at 33.46, and the long term average 38. So we're over 16 inches more rain at this time of the fiscal year than is normal.

Peter:

And you're getting more tomorrow.

John:

And we're getting more tomorrow. Absolutely. I mean there's water coming out of almost every place, every hole in the ground. I was driving on Racebrook Road in Orange and I went by the property that we used to own and there was someone put a field in there, the town must rented out and the whole 100 feet from the roadside into the field, you could just see it glistening from the water that is ... It comes off the slope and it's just hitting the surface and falling down. It's like there's nothing that they could grow in there. You put a machine in there, it's going to go ... It's terrible.

The land we need for the water reuse program for Cherry Hill Road, we executed quit claim deed to address title issues that when we filed those on the land records, that was for the three acres that we acquired from that subdivision. The Bis/Bowman property in Cheshire, we wired the money for their attorney for deposit and authorized Juliano to start the survey. I heard today that he's completed everything he's working on it in the office and I should get a draft by next week. Bethany corresponded with property owner of 35 acres. Hamden, one of 10 acres, and North Haven, one of 15 acres. And North Branford, Beech and Poms Lane, we corresponded with the Land Trust staff about the purchase there. They're still working with the state and getting questions about, or comments from the state about the survey, have not all been addressed yet from the state. They haven't gotten all the comments back from their surveyor, so they're still waiting for that before they update the survey and complete it.

And Squantuck Road, for you Mike, we have discussed plans for open space with the town. [inaudible 00:34:43] was very responsive. I have authorized the preliminary assessment and the appraisal for the property. That's basically starting the disposition process on our side. Rental houses, Skiff Street house, we received a check from the court through Murtha for the condemnation, so that's done. I have not heard whether or not it's been filed on the town land records. That would finalize that and get us to the point where we can now carve out the lot for the house and then sell the house. That would then be a separate disposition application that would come before you.

Woodbridge, 1955 Litchfield Turnpike. We met with the environmental planning staff at the house to inspect the house, barn, and the old treatment building. For forestry, there's no updates. Anything that would be updated from February would be in bold, but there's nothing because it was too wet. So all the forestry activities for timber [inaudible 00:35:35] were on hold for the month of March. But Casey did have a ... I had a contractor complete the clearing of Parryfield Road in Madison, scheduled to participate in several meetings related to the road repairs improvements at Menunkatuc water course. That's one of his timber sales. Identify additional white oak saplings in one of the Bethany land unit, clear cuts to expand agricultural experiment station release study. And we conducted several LSR grant planning and administrative duties, just trying to get all the stuff lined up for the grant there and revise the budget for the steam weeder capital spending procedures and award letter amendments. And

surveyed hemlock stand in Bethany for hemlock wooly adelgid. And that also I believe was in conjunction with someone at the ag station, wasn't it?

Josh:

Yes. We had met up with her yesterday.

John:

Yes, Carol?

Josh:

[inaudible 00:36:27].

John:

So for recreation we had an Easter egg hunt that had 36 kids attending with their families. Turned out to be a great day, so that worked out very well. We participated in a PayTrac migration meeting to discuss accepting credit cards for boat rentals. We amended the boat rental form, hired one new staff member for the recreation staff and started his training. Jeff ordered the trout for stocking Maltby Lakes and filed a liberation permit with DEEP and he worked on the plastic bait recycling program. So at the end of March we had 4,827 permittees. At the same time last year, we had 4,954. At this time last month we had 4,771. And that increase of about 50 or so permits is typical for this time of the year, disregarding the COVID period.

Linda issued four special permits in the last month. Nothing too out of the ordinary there. So our previous ones that we've reissued. Other items, encroachments. Again, there's a lot of these encroachment things because me and my staff have been out doing boundaries in the winter time. At 67 Woods Hill Road in North Branford, a tree house was dismantled removed from our property. Actually, Josh was the one who discovered this one. At 845 Alling Road, we executed a license equipment with the abutters to allow lawn and drain pipe. At 849 Alling Road, the abutters said that they would remove the materials back over the property lines, mostly just like garden yard equipment, that kind of thing. At 854 Greenway Road, we had surveyors remark the corners of the property so that we could properly mark it. And at 888 Greenway Road, we sent a letter to the abutter with an extensive lawn over the property line there. I've not heard back from them. They have until May 1st to address the issue, or at least get back to me and telling me how they're going to invest the issue.

At 284, Roosevelt Drive in Seymour, this is between Maiden Lane and Route 34. Mike, we sent letter to the abutters about materials over the property line. So it wasn't much. There was just a little kind of spilling over the line there. And at 20 Sawmill Hill Road, this is Greg's [inaudible 00:38:46] terraces. We sent letter to the abutter about dumpsters that are over the property line and met with the guy who owns and runs that. And I said I would send him a draft license agreement to review. He's probably going to enter into that. So we'll get a couple bucks for that.

Peter:

What terrace?

John:

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It's Hood Terrace. It's like between where the police station is, the train station. Invasive plants, Josh gave you all that. I don't think there's much more to say. Did 44.6 acres mapped in the month of March and treated 9.7 acres. Other items.

Greg:
John?

John:
Sure.

Greg:
Before you go, the property in Woodbridge, you said there was extensive [inaudible 00:39:32] over the property line.

John:
Yes.

Greg:
There's no fence there?

John:
No. In this instance, this property we've owned for decades. It goes back to the New England Water Company. It is right on the ... This parcel that we have. It's on the Woodbridge Orange town line. There isn't even a stock fence around this parcel. But what the property owner did, and we believe there's a pool there, and at one time the property owner was required to put a fence around it and just extended the lawn. And when they extended the lawn, they put the fence around the lawn area. So it goes quite a ways back. I mean bigger than this room, which is normally our lawn encroachments are usually a fraction of this room. This one is much bigger. So they're on notice and we're going to go out there and correct it if we need to. So at this point-

Mark:
What road is it on, did you say? [inaudible 00:40:31] and what? I mean-

John:
This particular homeowner is on Greenway Road and their address is in Orange. No, their address is in Woodbridge. However, the encroachment is in Orange because the property line there is the town line. A little quirky thing there.

Mark:
All right.

John:
That one is 888 Greenway Road in Woodbridge is where that owner is.

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Mark:

Where's Greenway Road about? What's that?

John:

Greenway Road is right by the Wilbercross entrance-

Mark:

Oh Yes, Yes.

John:

... parking lot.

Mark:

Yes, Yes. I know where it is.

John:

[inaudible 00:41:14] on Greenway.

Mark:

I know where it is now. Okay, I know.

John:

So at Hamden Hall, the scoreboard, the school notified us that the application for the scoreboard was approved by P&Z and we sent the letter to P&Z at their request stating that our permission for the scoreboard gave them permission for the scoreboard to be installed. It seemingly falls within the lease that we have at [inaudible 00:41:47] school. At Borrmann Road, we met with the abutters about the water coming over the ridge.

Deer Hunt, Nicole notified 100 Hunter that they will not be allowed to apply for the 2024 hunt. That was because he left materials out there that we found and she sent out 381 applications for this year's hunt to prospective deer hunters. In Branford, I can never pronounce this, Yowago, I think I'm messing that up, but Avenue easement. We've corresponded with a consultant working with the owner of number 15 there, about an old water main easement that crosses the property.

For boundaries, myself, Josh, and our colleagues in our department, checked and remarked boundaries in East Haven, North Brantford, Madison, Seymour, West Haven, Orange, Woodbridge, and Hamden. So it's been a busy month for that, even with the rain going on. The Genesee Tunnel Inspection, our engineering staff and have been working on plans to inspect the tunnel east of Lake Menunkatuc. We've been helping them out. We had a question from the engineering staff also about a DOT sediment basin. Mark, this is actually at the corner of Dillon Road in Route 69. I completed the research above this property and sent a summary to engineering so that they know what's going on. Filed the documents that I found to add to our vault that were missing. Cell phone towers, I met with a consultant at the High Rock Tank in Hamden and at Lake Whitney Dam project, I corresponded with UIA staff about signing a license agreement about our access there. And there's five articles for reading that are attached to the monthly summary and I'm open to any questions that you have from the March summary. Yes.

Peter:

Just to go back for a moment on that contract, the completed clearing of Parryfield Road, the road itself or the land in the area?

John:

Well, it's the road itself. So we had done a timber sale there. I mean I think it went back to Valerie's time here, so that had to be more than 10 years ago. And at that time the road was used for taking the logs in and out. We have not used the road since then, really. Not even for firewood cutters. So I was back there checking on things sometime in the wintertime, and noticed that there were several large trees that had come down blocking the road so that if we wanted to drive between Route 79 and Summer Hill Road, you could not do it. And also because of that, also a lot of the brush is starting to encroach on the road itself.

So I talked to Stephen McCoskey and said, "Hey, give me a price for clearing the road out and getting the trees out of the way." And so he gave me that and he went through there and he took out ... I mean some of the trees were wider than this table. So he cut them up, moved them out of the way, pushed back the brush. A lot of the brush wasn't too bad, but mountain laurel, it was encroaching and so you could still walk there, but you could never take a vehicle. So he's made it passable by a vehicle again.

Mark:

Now was most of this from the Route 79 entrance in or from Summer Hill?

John:

Well, he started from Summer Hill, but he went all the way to Route 79.

Peter:

What places do we stock for fishing? Just Gaillard?

John:

No, we don't stock Gaillard.

Peter:

We don't-

John:

We only do it for recreation, so it's only recreation areas. We stock the Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall. And some of it's done by us, like Maltby Lakes one is all us, but others is done by DEEP. We just cooperate with the-

Peter:

Now, fishing season is getting ... Or is it year round now?

John:

Well, yes. So in the state there is no fishing season anymore.

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Peter:

That's right. Okay.

John:

However, we have a fishing season because we are basically considered a private entity in this respect. We have some ability to put bookends on our fishing season and we start April 1st and then we end, I think it's November 30th. And so no one should have been fishing on our property until right up until Easter basically. And now they can fish there. We won't start doing boats. And I was out of Saltonstall earlier this week. They put the fishing dock out there. They were installing the boat dock when I was there. So that won't start until the end of this month where we start renting boats at Saltonstall.

Peter:

Thank you. Anything else for John?

Greg:

Yes, actually this has nothing to do with your presentation today, but Sunday I noticed that we were getting some dirt in the water at home. It was in the toilet and turned the faucet on. Now I checked my emails. I didn't see anything from the water pumping. Do you know anything happening in West Haven?

John:

Jim should be there [inaudible 00:46:48] some flushing. Hey, Jim, any [inaudible 00:46:49].

Jim:

We didn't have any flushing activities in West Haven. Right now we're working in Milford and New Haven, and I didn't hear anything specific related to West Haven, so I'd have to follow up on that some more.

John:

We can follow up. There was nothing specific.

Greg:

And I drove around to see if there's anything going on. I didn't hear [inaudible 00:47:14].

Sunny:

I didn't hear anything too. I don't think we even got any calls or anything of mis-colored water. This is the first time I'm hearing.

John:

What date was that?

Greg:

It was Sunday.

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John:
Sunday.

Greg:
Yes. I said to my wife, "There won't be any flushing today."

John:
Right.

Peter:
Is it still coming out?

Greg:
No. It stopped. Stopped later on. Cleared up.

John:
So seven, I guess, right?

Greg:
Yes.

John:
We'll look into it and we'll get back to you. [inaudible 00:47:48].

Peter:
Any other questions? Sunny, anything from management?

Sunny:
No, nothing at all. I think as Josh said, I think kudos to the entire team for getting the USDA grant. So it was Casey, Josh, John. I think it was extremely, I would say, well put together application. It's competitive by nature, so we had actually points allocated and we were selected. So I think it shows the amount of effort that went in, first of all to even research the grant that was available and work with DEEP to get it done. So I think kudos to the team members.

Peter:
I agree.

Josh:
And we can use it for steam in the [inaudible 00:49:25] office.

Peter:

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You're right, Josh. The way you concentrate with certain areas, you can't just bounce around. You won't get nothing done.

Josh:

Right.

Peter:

So it makes sense. Jim's online, isn't he?

Jim:

Yes.

Peter:

Jim, you have anything to say, Jim

Jim:

Nothing at this time, but thank you.

Peter:

Okay. All right. Joint meeting is Monday the 15th of Consumer Affairs and Land Use at 5:30 . All RPB members are invited to attend. I'm sorry. And our next regular meeting is May 8th, 4:30. Where are we going?

John:

I talked to my staff at the last one. Jamie had a question about oaks. So I think what we're going to do is we'll meet at Saltonstall by the fish dock. Just talked to Casey and Nicole and they said there are several species of oaks there, so we can give a little lesson on oaks in May.

Jamie:

Thank you, John. Thank you.

John:

You're welcome.

Peter:

Well, that'll be good. Weather will be breaking. It's time to get outside.

John:

Make sure it's not raining.

Peter:

No more rain. We had enough. Need a motion to adjourn.

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Greg:

I will.

Peter:

Second?

Joe:

Second.

Peter:

All in favor?

Committee members:

Aye.