

TOWN OF ESOPUS
P.O. Box 700
Port Ewen, NY 12466

TOWN OF ESOPUS ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
July 13th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AnneMarie Belfiglio, Mark, Rosie

Guests: Nate – Scenic Hudson – Powerpoint presentation regarding “Invasive Species to the Hudson Valley Region”

Secretary: Sheila Pratt

Members Absent: Jennifer Barrows, Shari

TB Liaison: Gloria Van Vliet, WAB Liaison - Kathie Quick

1. **CALL TO ORDER Meeting began about 7:00 pm** - Scenic Hudson was preparing a power point presentation but unfortunately technical difficulties prevented it so we made due with Nate reading from his laptop and distributing reading materials regarding the species recently discovered on Shaupeneak Ridge and along Rte. 9W.
2. **June MINUTES: Distributed at meeting.**
3. **EDUCATION FORUM: Nate - Scenic Hudson Land Stewardship Coordinator** – Informed us about “PRISM” a new resource to help the lower Hudson Valley region identify and educate our communities. He presented clips of “Mile a Minute Weed from the ridge. Gloria V. brought in a clipping from her property.

“At present we are having difficulty in managing this weed and our need to remove it is strong . It has a triangular shaped leaf, bright green and has a prickly vine but doesn’t have a skin irritant to the touch . Discovered in Oregon in 1890 and again in the early 1930’s in York County, PA; this is the invasive stem we know today.”

It began on the property of a nursery and continued on from there. It ranges from New Hampshire to North Carolina. In NY the Ulster County area there is a “hot spot” and the most northern at this time. This will give Scenic Hudson a great opportunity to study it and naturally eradicate it.”

“In 2014 it was discovered at Black Creek and that led to a survey of this one isolated area to keep it identified and under control. Independent contractors have been hired to assist them in removing it, they have created a management program with this contractor long term. At this time approximately 150 acres locally are being monitored and managed.” We are working with the Catskill arm of this management program to identify and map areas to the west of here.” After researching and trials of how to remove it they discovered the best way is to continue a two week mowing/weed wacking cycle and also hand removal in small areas. “

“Larger areas must be controlled through herbicide application to keep it under control. The other program is a bio-control “weevil” program that has been tested in NJ with great success. This insect eats all the leaves only which decreases the pollination process and reduces seed production”. Reforestation is key to eradicating this weed as it thrives in sunlight and meadow type landscape. Once the areas are cleared of it; we intend to plant as many trees as possible to diminish it’s rebirth.”LHPRISM.org is a key website to educating the public in this area.”

“Community meetings are key to get the word out on this invasive species as eyes in the field are needed to spot it, we aren’t everywhere and we need the public’s help on this.” August is seeding time for this weed so any assistance to removal is greatly appreciated.”
“The Apple Bin area is a key hotspot to where this is expanding rapidly.”
“The property at The Mount is prime for this weed to be present and we are working with them to identify and contain it. Please don’t hesitate to contact me to help you identify any possible species on your property. Email me with any concerns you may have.”

4. Other Business: None

Nate thanked everyone for coming to the presentation/meeting and we adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: August 10th , 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Pratt, Secretary
ENVIRONMENTAL Board 7/18/2015