

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AMENDMENT TO AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

09-11-2025

- Q&A Session with Commission and community members
 - Safety and liability concerning downslope wells near the project
 - A. Glyphosate was labeled and previously used for phragmites control in New Jersey and it was being sprayed directly around water sources.
 - B. Paul will provide studies from EPA and 3rd party sources addressing risk to human health.
 - C. Much of the glyphosate issue was GMO grains were adapted for glyphosate tolerance and received applications across vast acreages. Glyphosate (under Roundup label) was heavily used by homeowners. Both of these likely contributed to environmental and water loadings of glyphosate.
 - D. Studies provided will include info on how long it stays active in the environment before it is broken down (half life).
 - Will the contiguous property owners be notified of the spraying?
 - A. Municipalities have authority to treat vegetation along roadsides as needed, but there is an obligation to notify adjacent landowners and a notification process for land owners. Similar to Eversource contractors cutting trees near power lines - notification goes out with opportunity to decline. Ultimately, the municipalities have the authority to manage the roadsides.
 - We have requested the NH Invasive Species Coordinator (and a licensed pesticide applicator) and spraying company to come to one of our meetings to answer questions but this has not yet happened.
 - A. We can request that someone representing the spraying company attend a future meeting once the town gets to the point where they are looking at hiring. Preferably this is one familiar with knotweed control.
 - Who will do the spraying? Will the person(s) be licensed? If not, is the Town of Westmoreland responsible for any long term health issues?
 - A. Yes, the town would need to hire a licensed application technician. Glyphosate purchased by the public is ~2%, concentrated sources can be

purchased that may go as high as 40%, but it is generally diluted before use. Review of practices is taking place to identify the best concentration and protocol to accomplish control with the least impact.

- Has the State of NH used the methodology proposed for the project along its state highways? If not, why?
 - A. Best Management Practices (BMP) for Invasive Species Control is available from the DOT and Agriculture – one of many sources of information for Paul's presentation and strategy. This is based on NH Agriculture BMP for knotweed (and other species).
 - B. § DOT BMP:
<https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/programs/environmental-management-system/invasive-species>
 - C. § Agriculture BMP:
<https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/japanese-knotweed-bmps.pdf>
- NH Invasive Species Coordinator has indicated they would be willing to meet with WCC and Board of Selectmen to discuss strategy and previous work.
 - A. Paul is meeting with the regional NHDOT engineer on Monday (8/18)
- Have we discussed this project with the NHACC, to which we belong and, if so, do they endorse it?
 - A. Yes, Paul has been working with Barbara Richter, Executive Director of NHACC. Seeking information on which Commissions are working on knotweed, strategies they are using and, and what resources may exist to fund this type of project.
- Does the Select Board fully support this endeavor and do they have liability concerns regarding the neighboring wells as well as of the persons doing the actual spraying should they have health issues in the future?
 - A. The Select Board is supportive of progress so far and further exploration into this topic.
 - B. The state-provided Best Management Practices for Invasives Species Control would be the approach used which has been approved by the state of NH.

- C. Would need to consult the town's attorney on liability and insurance around liability, including proper routes of communication of info.
- Is there an aquifer located in this area?
 - A. Yes - please see info related to studies that will be provided related to health and "half life" of the compounds in glyphosate.
- Is the NHDES onboard with this project?
 - A. Since this is a Best Management practice from NH Agriculture and NH DOT, it is approved by the State and therefore would include state agencies such as NHDES. It appears NH Ag and DOT are coordinating with DES.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Fletcher