respectfully submitted by Priscilla Cookson August 26 2015

handwritten 5 pages

Conservation Commission Minutes
July 22 2015 7pm

Present: Kelly, Jeff Normandin, Priscilla Cookson, Mike

Robin Kerr invited to present. She sent student employee in her stead to inform commission on invasive weed control summit and trails Mt A.

It was noted that since the clear cut there is a pervasive ongoing battle on the summit with predominantly glossy buckthorn. Also removed: Morrow's honeysuckle and multiflora rose (rugosa). Prior to clearcut, no invasive plant concerns. When asked, employee stated she made $11 per hr. worked 35hrs. per week during summer months only. There are a total of 3 employees hired to manage invasive plants on Mt. A.

Also noted: there is no knotweed present to her knowledge on Mt A

Employees use pitchforks, pick matics pulaski, clippers + work gloves. They do not sterilize tools.

Conversation followed by commission members as to how to proceed with

invasive species control.
Suggested we begin manual removal of Japanese Knotweed Spring 2016. Due to the timing of project initiation the problem will be funding. labor. Discussion concluded both the dept of public works and parks and recreation could possibly donate time and employees to a single road in the town of York to get the project started ASAP. Due to an existing project experiment on a culvert on Fall Mill Rd, Priscilla suggested because Knotweed growing in culvert areas are growing into a known depth, removal focus on culverts, away from treeline might be most successful. No spray will be used. Therefore the process of dilligent monitoring will be labor intensive but eventually cost is expected to level off. as plants will be reduced in size and number. Members decided a well travelled road to the summit of Mt A from the beach area tourists would use, would give the project high visability and have high education valve. Also removal of Knotweed where it is less predominant means greater success at management, greater chance the weed won't spread

if eradication occurs now. In the beach and village areas, the plant has overtaken natural plant diversity, reached catastrophic numbers in town center and at certain locations on the beach for example: Camp Eaton where it appears to be cultivated as hedge for privacy from the road. Citizen cooperation will be key to success of removal project. It is hoped volunteers can also be found to initiate business and individual participation in roadside maintenance. Contamination into treeline and groves on private property a concern.

Jeff Nordmandin is to bring a projector to the August meeting so the commission can identify a suitable road area to be first managed next spring on a projected map of york.

Storage + removal of cut plants was discussed. Also the problem of town mowing spreading plant parts, therefore seeding new plants. It was noted most serere invasion ~~and dangerou~~ is a traffic hazard. growth ~~was~~ at intersections, involved signage obstruction. Knot weed and phragmite are highly flammable when dry.

A drive by of selected site would include a plant count to evaluate manpower needed and the cost of labor + time needed. It was suggested possibly 3 summer employees would

monitor the chosen roadway once per week beginning ASAP as truly plants should be addressed in April. Maintenance would continue until frost kill in the fall.

Suggestion churchs get involved as some church owned properties have chronic invasive knotweed problem. Church involvement would raise overall town awareness.
Perhaps local businesses could adopt a road

Also noted Hogweed discovered on Nubble Light island. and should be immediately irradicated including spray by professionals.

Kelly will copy report from MtA and give it to Priscilla for hard copy record.

Jeff cited toward the end of the meeting, he had neglected to bring a letter from the York Town Manager to this meeting. He will bring it to the August 2015 meeting

Officers still need to be elected
Priscilla took notes. volunteered to write up July ~~[illegible]~~ Commission meeting

It was noted citizens expressed concern over ruthless ~~[illegible]~~ herbicidal spraying and plant, tree removal from York Cliffs. Erosion is a problem

Also it was noted poison ivy is a problem on the cliff path. If York becomes herbicidal spray free, how will we control especially toxic plants to the public.

Next meeting August 26, 2015

Possibility Mike Sullivan of York Parks and Rec and Dean Lessard of York Public Works attending Sept 2015 meeting to discuss strategy and financial support for removal and maintenance of invasive weeds, especially knotweed.

It was noted the public works dept has a severe ongoing problem with knotweed growth at department site.

Meeting adjorned 9PM.

Next York Conservation Commission meeting August 26 2015, York Public Library

respectfully submitted Priscilla Cookson, ed chair