

**Landscape Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 12, 2025**  
**Chimney Hill Owners Association**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee met at the Chimney Hill Clubhouse. Carol Sewall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following Committee members attended: Barbara Silver, Elaine Ahnell, Anne Saracino, Laura Powers, Kathleen Comeau, Patty Small, Sharron Heberlein, and Beth Nanis. New member Kim Trinklein attended. Roseann Adams and Carlotta Gladding attended remotely.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from June 7, 2025, were approved.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

Members welcomed new member Kim whose wife Kate is on the board. They owned a business in Connecticut that was like a small Agway so he brings welcome knowledge.

Carol noted that the flagpole area seems to need some attention. She will check on Cheryl's plans as it was understood to be her area. Maybe the thinking was more that Cheryl took care of the fall and what was needed at that time of year.

Many compliments have been received this year on the beauty of the kiosks. Carol took pictures of several that have bird or butterfly houses and one with a water dish for bees and included them in the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Gardeners Corner Eblast. Elaine has researched butterfly houses and found that they do not actually attract butterflies but bees and insects instead! This comment was followed up by Patty later talking about invasive plants which the butterfly bush is one and it should be recommended to plant the butterfly weed instead.

Laura has still not heard from Mike (Bee the Change). Originally Mike was looking to get multiple locations before he would start so Laura will continue to wait.

Patty brought members up-to-date on all her work and research regarding invasive species. She has 18 large black garbage bags filled with knotweed cuttings that are in the maintenance area. The plan is for the cuttings to just die, but if they've gotten too much water, possibly some Roundup will need to be sprayed in the bag. She has had conversations with groups in the Mad River Valley area that are working to eliminate the knotweed. With all the flooding in northern Vermont and knotweed's love of water, it has become quite the problem with spreading and its ability to find its way into pipes. The consensus is to cut, cut again when the roots shoot up, and just keep cutting. This will eventually weaken it and those are the results Patty is beginning to see with her efforts. If Roundup is used it should not be the 'farmer's commercial brand' and not used where it could seep into a water source. She asked members for ideas on how to mark the areas she has worked on to return and see the state of regrowth. Both orange cones (from Maintenance?) and orange tape used in construction zones were recommended. She has found in her conversations with those in the Mad River Valley area that they have received grants and currently have 7 interns from the University of Vermont as well as 'natives' adopting areas to take on the task themselves. Planting native seeds as you start to see results of killing the knotweed was also suggested.

Patty and Carol have been working on an article they plan to put in an Eblast to educate Chimney Hill residents on the knotweed and how to recognize and eliminate it on their property as well as other invasive species. Patty will chair a subcommittee that educates on not only the knotweed, but the other invasive species such as Japanese barberry and burning bushes. Carol asked members to consider joining this subcommittee. Patty has also emailed Carol Bois of Wilmington Trails but has not heard back as of yet. It was suggested that possibly members want to take this a step further and attend the Select board meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> to see about any town involvement.

Carol had no updated information on the balance in the Committee's budget. She will check with James to see if a donation has been made to Margery Winters yet and look into the current balance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

August 2 was the decided date for the Sip & Dig. It will be advertised in the Eblast. Carol will ask James how to set an 'RSVP' for anyone interested outside the Committee. Laura recommended it be noted that only the first 20 to register will be invited. The plan is to meet at the Clubhouse at 9:00 a.m. A list of the gardens/addresses will be available. Current gardens to be visited: Kathleen, Elaine, Barbara and Diana and Pam's. Possible additions are Anne and Carol. If attendance expands to outside the Committee refreshments will be limited to water. The date will remain unless downpours and/or thunderstorms are in the forecast.

Discussions on a plant sale in September were started. Members discussed best time to dig (early September) so that plantings dug up to be replanted are successful before a possible frost. Roseann offered to bring a collection of her daffodil bulbs.

### **MEMBER CONCERNS**

Culvert work is being done by the town so Laura's kiosk (M8) will be taken apart and moved further up the hill behind where it is now which will be its permanent location. Laura will remove the perennials and replant next year when all is done.

Members adjourned and several made their way down to the Office garden area by the rock wall to work on cleaning that area up. New member Kim was to help Patty after the meeting work on more Knotweed in an area off of Haystack Road.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Saturday, August 9 2025, 9:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse.

**ADJOURNMENT** was at 10:25

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Comeau