

GoNative Meeting
Thursday March 26th
1hr meeting via Zoom set up by Stephanie Markham

Participants - Stephanie Ackley, Stephanie Markham, Leslie Lincoln, Emily Nicodemus, Sam Benton, Nia Tzellas-Davis, Lyn Benton, Michelle Noonan

Some of the discussion points

Native Plant of the Month

Continue to have a "Native Plant of the Month" at meetings. Include seeds (if available) and flyer

February - Butterfly weed by Emily

September - New York Ironweed by Michelle

October - Swida (Cornus) sericea - Red Twig Dogwood or flowering Dogwood by Stephanie Markham

It is good to include perennials, shrubs and trees. The GoNative Challenge focuses largely on shrubs and trees as it is felt they have the biggest ecological impact.

Another component which the GoNative Challenge focuses on is the identification and management of invasive plants. It would be good to have a resource to identify local invasive's in Norfolk with management recommendations. Maybe we could include an invasive in the place of a "native plant of the month" as a way of educating and highlighting the threats they pose to our ecosystems and native plants. Some of the invasives we discussed were Buckthorn and Asian Bittersweet.

For information on Invasive plants

- A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts by Paul Somers. This can be found on the mass.gov website under Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. cost \$5
- Stephanie Ackley mentioned a resource used by the Conservation Commission

Database developed by the Benton's

Emily, Sam, Lyn, and Stephanie are looking at ways the information from the Database can be best presented on our website. It was discussed how the information could be made available to Garden Club members. Sam gave us an tour of the database and showed all the ways plants can be listed.

Opportunities to encourage Residents of Norfolk to grow Natives

Farmers Market

Sell Native Plants.

Use the publicity information Nia, Michele and Sabrina worked on for the Library Display.

Decide if we want to sell baked goods

Other suggestions

Pop up location of plants for sale at the end of a members driveway - could use an honors system or offer for free and have a donation box to support GCN

Leave plants at ACE gardens for pick up

Developers

We discussed the draft letter which Stephanie Ackley composed. It has been edited and reduced in size to one page by Michelle and Emily. It was first thought that it is too long but Nia

remarked all the information is useful and of benefit. It was agreed this one page document could be used as an attachment to a letter. Stephanie Markham said some editing still needs to be completed on the document.

Leslie liked the idea of recommending native alternatives to some of the plants used by developers. The plants should serve the same purpose intended e.g. privacy barrier etc. Emily mentioned the cost of using natives, Stephanie Markham felt they would not be more expensive.

Town Bylaws that support a percentage of plants to be native. We discussed 50%
Stephanie Ackley will inform us of this process.

Items on the agenda but which we did not discuss due to time limits
- new proposed veterans garden at the Norfolk Cemetery