

**Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2013  
Ashfield Town Hall**

Present: Lester Garvin, Chair (LG)  
Phil Lussier (PL)  
Will Thayer (WT)  
Dave Fessenden (DF)  
Brian Clark (BC)  
Brittany Martin, Scribe (BM)

The meeting is called to order at 7:35pm.

1. Board reviews mail.
2. Board discusses Robert Cherdak; he wanted to add an additional culvert to his property. He is scheduled to be here for 8:00pm.
3. Board discusses annual report. LG has submitted the report.
4. Board discusses online building permits. LG checked them today. He said there were a couple applications that had to do with the installation of new pellet stoves. All of the applications were signed off on.
5. LG states that it is a good idea for the members of the Board to re-visit the Enforcement Orders section of the manual.
6. Board discusses Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership, PL will email Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership and will be liaison for town of Ashfield.
  - a. Letter attached.
7. Robert Cherdak didn't show. We will reschedule.
8. PL motions to adjourn the meeting, WT seconds and all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Martin, Scribe

# WISP

## Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership

December 14, 2012

Dear Select Board, Conservation Commission, and Open Space Committee Members,

Thank you in advance for your time and attention! We at the Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership wish to better protect our natural communities by identifying representatives from your community to serve as a liaison with our partnership. As we are aware of the time commitment involved in your positions, we are not attempting to recruit current members of your boards and committees.

**Rather, we are hoping for your assistance in identifying community members who you feel might be interested in becoming involved.**

WISP is a group of organizations and individuals concerned about the threat of invasive plants in the Westfield River Watershed. Invasive species (including insects like the Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and plants such as Garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, and Glossy buckthorn) negatively impact our native plant and animal communities. These impacts result from competition for light and water, predation on native plants, and alteration of soil chemistry. The damage to our native species and habitats can be long-lasting and expensive to mitigate. The goal of our partnership is to promote cooperative efforts to manage invasive species and protect native habitats in the watershed, through education, early detection, eradication, and management.

Currently, our steering committee has representation from The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Trustees of Reservations, Westfield State University, Westfield Wild and Scenic, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and United States Fish and Wildlife, among others. We have found that community involvement is essential in discovering new invaders before they damage native habitats and become expensive to remove or control. Establishing a base of town-level liaisons will help us and your town to effectively protect the native habitats within the watershed. **We sincerely appreciate any suggestions or nominations you may have.** Please respond to us via our email address: [wrwisp@gmail.com](mailto:wrwisp@gmail.com) or call 413-628-4485 x3.

Many thanks!

WISP Steering Committee  
[wrwisp@gmail.com](mailto:wrwisp@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*Please feel free to pass this letter along to others who may be interested.\*\*\*\*\*