June 28, 2022

HI Kord,

Thanks for all your efforts on addressing the spread of the invasive parsnip and chervil.  Also please thank the road crew for their diligence on this as well.  We appreciate you keeping us informed as the Town considers different options for trying to control these weeds.

We have noticed a significant decline in the yellow-flowering parsnip.  Yay!  This is a big success!  We think the Town's mowing has really made the difference on reducing the populations of these plants.   It is an easier plant than the chervil to control due to it being a biennial.  The chervil, being a perennial, is much more difficult to get rid of.

We talked together a bit about our thoughts on control measures.  We are in agreement that  spraying these weeds is not a good idea.  We think any benefit will be offset by the harmful effect of the herbicide in the environment.  Instead, we think continuing the spot mowing to reduce the spread by seeds, and adjusting our expectations to the reality that these plants are here to stay, is a better, safer approach. It is still important to try to control the numbers of these plants as much as we can but we accept that we will never completely eliminate them.

We realize that this is a significant amount of work for the road crew.  Unfortunately, because of the different flowering times, it means there will need to be two different mowing times.  The Town may be able to get some property owners to mow their own roadsides where these plants are prevalent or maybe there could be some volunteer efforts to help reduce the burden on the road crew.

Thank you, again, for your attention on this issue and including us in the conversation.

Alison and Diane

(Alison Trowbridge and Diane Newton)