**Report to Selectmen Aug 31, 2019**

**2019 Program:**

 Started control process in upper reaches of the watershed.

 Document site locations on all major Warren Roads

 Currently all of East Warren is mapped and part of west Warren and none of the Town Center

 iNaturalist.com/WarrenVTKnotweedProject

 - over 150 sites documented and mapped

 Knotweed Dump established

 Knotweed Control Efforts Undertaken

 Manual extraction with materials removed to knotweed dump

 VYCC and Intervale Conservation Nursery

 Multiple passes on over 100 infestation sites

* Eliminated knotweed on a few smaller tracks
* - i.e. no new growth seen
* - not guaranteed but hopeful
*

 June/July/August manual extraction

 Roxbury Mt Road

 Brook Road

 East Warren Common Road

 Prickly Mt Road

 Plunkton Road

 Airport Road

 Dump Road

 Fuller Hill Road

 Town Gravel Pit

 Town Parks

 Quayles Bend

 Riverside Park (with Friends)

 Wabanaki Park and knotweed dump

**Process**

 Steps in Manual extraction process

1. cut stalk from root ball,
2. haul stalks off site to dump – drys out in a few days to non-viable state
3. extract root balls and take to dump – isolate and dry out, it may takes a long time depending on the size and density of the root balls

 Other ideas:

1. Onsite disposal of tops could work fine with right technique
2. Mowing/weed wacking every couple of weeks is good follow up practice
3. Getting to knotweed infestation quickly and early is key to ease the battle.

**Lessons Learned**

 - It seems like every year you wait requires significantly more effort to eliminate knotweed.

 - Knotweed material below the ground might equal knotweed material above the ground.

**MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Eliminate delivery of contaminated gravel by Town or other contractors

* Town commits to start continuing to spread knotweed.
* - Plan for identification of sites
* - Develop Town program to isolate contaminated soils
* - Develop treatment program to clean the knotweed out of gravel.
* Start Program to identify and certify knotweed free gravel sources.

Document Historical Town Road Work

 Identify road work time frame for sites with knotweed infestations

 Identify gravel supplier where possible

 Track road ditching and where the contaminated gravel goes

Develop Plan for 2020

* Develop Plan and Budget
* Identify funding opportunities and pursue