

Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

13 June 2016

Legion Hall

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Olin Lathrop

Also attending:

Celia Silinonte

NOTE: Since only 2 committee members were present, quorum was not met. No votes were taken. Since the meeting was posted to the website however, the attendees were free to speak.

The first item of business was preparation for the June 20th Special Meeting.

- Olin Lathrop described being in regular communication with Tim Simmons (guest speaker)
 - He still hadn't heard back re/ his most recent communication – computer needs.
- Brian Bettencourt added he will bring his new computer and HDMI cable.
- Olin Lathrop mentioned that he still needed to confirm the presentation file format.
- The attendees discussed:
 - The Order of Business at the Special Meeting will be: 1) Welcome, 2) Presentation, 3) Discussion
 - An Unofficial start at 6:30 PM---
 - All publicized write-ups had mentioned that unofficial start time.
 - A Short version of writeup had been sent to newspapers.
 - A Long version went to TAG, Keystone email lists.
 - The final version was not reviewed one last time prior to public release (Olin Lathrop just accepted all of Holly Estes' edits via email)
- The attendees looked at the final version live on screen.
- The attendees reviewed how the invasive species email list works.
- The attendees discussed bringing snacks to the Special Meeting:
 - Olin Lathrop agreed to go to the grocery store and bring some juice and cookies.
- The agenda was discussed:
 - At 6:30 PM Brian Bettencourt will call to order, extend invite for snacks.
 - At 6:55 Olin Lathrop will introduce the speaker.
 - After the presentation (not sure how many slides yet), time will be reserved for discussion if lots of questions have been reserved till post-presentation.
 - After the presentation, the Committee can have time to talk about our specific questions re/ Phragmites in town.

- Olin Lathrop sent the announcement to Art Prest and the lakes committee(s) members that visited the Invasive Species Committee in May.
 - Olin Lathrop described previously sending the announcement to the Groton Herald, Nashoba Voice, TAG, Keystone, Worcester Telegram, Cons Trust, and NWRA.
 - Olin Lathrop agreed to send a reminder email to TAG on the upcoming Friday.

The second item of business was an update on membership.

- The attendees discussed how all member terms expire June 30th (each is a 1 year term).
- Brian Bettencourt sent an email to selectmen re/ reappointing the members.
- The attendees discussed Celia Silinonte officially joining the committee.
 - There is necessary paperwork, and the appointment must be placed on Selectmen's agenda.

The third item of business was the Bittersweet brochure.

- As Adam Burnett was not in attendance, his progress on printing could not be discussed.
- Celia Silinonte mentioned how she wants to include description of the orange roots.
 - She had passed the brochure around at the last Garden Club meeting; someone felt the roots were missing!
- Celia Silinonte agreed to send Brian Bettencourt suggested edits; He can update the big powerpoint file live at next official meeting.
 - The attendees agreed that space constraints must be considered.

The fourth item of business was the upcoming Riverfest.

- The attendees discussed the event- next Sunday 11-5.
- Celia Silinonte mentioned she'd be there all day, as she's on the organizing committee.
- Olin Lathrop mentioned he'd be there to set up – he's coordinating the Trails Comm. booth.
 - He indicated that the Invasive Species Comm. is officially approved to share their space.
 - Olin Lathrop agreed to bring some bittersweet to show.
- Adam Burnett needs to give brochures to Olin Lathrop; Brian Bettencourt emailed Adam Burnett to remind.

The fifth item of business was Any Other Business.

- The attendees discussed Poison ivy:
 - Quite a problem, but is it invasive?
- The attendees agreed that after the Tim Simmons special meeting, focus needed to return to querying the Selectmen re/ Applicator Licenses.
 - The Conservation Commission tried in the past, but didn't follow through.
 - Olin Lathrop indicated he might ask in official capacity for both bodies.

- Holly Estes was supposed to have sent her ideas re/ next plants for an official brochure to Brian Bettencourt
 - Brian Bettencourt agreed to follow up with her via email.
- The attendees agreed that at the next meeting, it'd be good to have a vote on the Next Official Publication.
- Olin Lathrop mentioned that he wants to organize a work party to remove bittersweet.
 - The idea is to make a dent someplace!
 - See how much can do with volunteers.
- Brian Bettencourt wondered whether the focus should be kept just on that plant, or multiple targets of opportunity.
 - Olin Lathrop wanted to focus, keep it easy.
 - Almost an experiment, to see what we can do with a couple hours and a handful of volunteers.
 - Olin Lathrop felt the committee should pick a good spot that might be really appropriate, ideally on Conservation Commission land.
 - He agreed to pick a Sunday afternoon as a starting point.
 - Action item: Olin Lathrop agreed to email the committee, describing his idea, ask for participation and implied or express consent, float a weekend. In other words, ask for official consideration of the idea.
 - Olin Lathrop also agreed to explore official permission from the Conservation Commission.