

Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes
12 June 2017
Legion Hall, Groton, MA

Committee Members Present:

Greta Marks-Strouble

Adam Burnett

Olin Lathrop

Agenda:

- 1) Review of Minutes
- 2) Eliades conservation land - report from site walk and Conservation Commission meeting(s)
- 3) Organizing a trip to Arnold Arboretum for mulberry cuttings
- 4) Progress on the next brochures
- 5) Progress on one more pesticide applicator license
- 6) Riverfest: Materials and plan
- 7) Black swallowwort in the Shattuck Homestead parcel
- 8) Progress on "mystery tall grass" identification
- 9) Any Other Business

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Agenda Items discussed:

1) Review of Minutes from the 15 May 2017 meeting:

The minutes were reviewed on screen. Olin Lathrop moved to accept the minutes. Adam Burnett seconded. Motion passed, with Greta abstaining, since she was not at the last meeting.

2) Eliades Conservation land update:

Olin reported that the wetland ditch has encroaching patches of Phragmites. The entrance to the property from the west. South of Pacer Way near entrance has encroaching stands of autumn olive.

Olin filed RDA in May with Groton Conservation Commission (ConCom), with negative determination by ConCom. Therefore, the Invasives Committee is approved to move forward with the plan to treat the invasive plants with herbicide.

The Committee discussed the following proposal: 1) In September or October (to be confirmed) volunteers will bundle the Phragmites; 2) volunteers will cut the bundles; 3) a committee member with applicator license will apply glyphosate herbicide locally to the cut stems. Glyphosate is good for small applications of Phragmites and when mixed with cattails. This herbicide treatment is specifically targeted and uses a low amount of herbicide. The ConCom wants to organize a walk prior to application. Olin recommended to organize a walk on June 25 at 1 PM. Adam made a motion to approve the walk; Olin seconded. The vote

was unanimous. Olin will mention this walk at the next ConCom meeting, which was scheduled June 13, 2017. We talked about reviewing Tim Simmons' slideshow on Phragmites treatment.

As an action item, Adam and Olin will investigate the best time to perform the herbicide treatment of the Phragmites.

3) Trip to the Arnold Arboretum to get cuttings of Red Mulberry:

Greta is in correspondence with Arnold Arboretum to get permission, and enquire further if the red mulberry plants at the arboretum are the native species of red mulberry (*Morus rubra*).

4) Next Invasive Species Alert Brochure:

The next brochure is on burning bush (*Euonymus Alatus*). Greta presented a draft. The committee read and marked up the draft and provided Greta with edits. Greta will work on the final with Brian for the next meeting.

5) Progress on pesticide licenses:

Olin purchased equipment for application, including sprayer, vest, gloves, and four different chemicals, for a total of \$600. He submitted the receipts to the town for reimbursement.

6) RiverFest update:

Olin stated that the event went well. More people went to the combined Invasive Species and Trails Committee booth, and there were more sign ups. Live clippings of invasives on display provided visitor interest, which Adam collected around the Petapawag park site.

7) Shattuck Homestead Update:

Olin presented information on application of herbicide treatment in the open meadow area to control the invasive species black swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*). The meadow is deeded to remain as open meadow. Olin will work with the ConCom to do treatments in the following couple of weeks.

8) Progress on determining the species of the mystery tall grass on Warden Plantation:

Olin is still following up on identifying this plant species.

9) Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Meeting Adjournment:

Adam Burnett moved to adjourn. Olin Lathrop seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.