

Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes
10 July 2017
Legion Hall, Groton, MA

Committee Members Present:

Greta Marks-Strouble

Adam Burnett

Olin Lathrop

Agenda:

- 1) Review of minutes from last meeting
- 2) Report on Eliades conservation land site walk with Conservation Commission, and future plans discussion
- 3) Report on Arnold Arboretum visit and plans for red mulberry seedlings
- 4) Progress on Invasive Species Alert brochures
- 5) Report on correspondence with Mendon, MA
- 6) Progress on herbicide applicator licenses
- 7) Any Other Business

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Items discussed:

1) Review of Minutes from the 12 June 2017 meeting:

The minutes were reviewed on screen. Adam Burnett moved to accept the minutes. Olin Lathrop seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Eliades Conservation land update:

Olin Lathrop reported on the site walk of the Eliades Conservation land on Sunday, June 25, at 1:30 PM to observe the conditions of the invasive plants that have spread within the parcel. He participated in the walk along with Conservation Commission members and one member of the general public. Specifically, the committee looked at autumn olive and Phragmites. Some of the autumn olive bushes were large – 2”-3” diameter stems. The proposal is to cut at base and treat the cut stumps with glyphosate immediately after cutting. Adam Burnett recommended treatment of the stumps should occur ideally within 3 minutes of cutting.

At the next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission (11 July), Olin plans to officially request approval of a motion to allow the Invasive Species Committee to cut and treat the invasive plants at any suitable time. Upon approval by the Conservation Commission, the Invasive Species committee will then be able to plan a trip out to the site to begin the treatment of autumn olive. Adam recommended Autumn Olive treatment is ideal anytime during the summer, and Phragmites treatment is ideal after tasseling becomes mature – mid September.

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

Greta Marks-Strouble and Brian Bettencourt went to the Arnold Arboretum on June 22 and performed the cuttings of the red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) available at the site. They got 11 cuttings total (new growth of twigs). They dipped the cuttings in rooting hormone immediately and planted in potting soil in small pots. The plants are currently growing indoors. Greta said she looked for traits in the specimens at the arboretum that supported their being native species. She saw traits resembling native and one trait questionable. The fruit on the rubra specimens were dark colored and sweet tasting, and the fruit on the white mulberry specimens at the arboretum, also mature, appeared lighter in color. The rubra leaves did not look typical – they were thicker than she expected, and they did not have trailing tips on the lobes, which otherwise would have been expected. She said a representative at the arboretum told her the specimens were first collected as seedlings or cuttings in Pennsylvania.

4) Next Invasive Species Alert Brochures:

Adam Burnett continuing research on the Phragmites brochure. Greta Marks-Strouble and Brian Bettencourt completed the burning bush brochure, using the notes from the last meeting. The burning bush brochure is now published on the Invasive Species Committee website. Now there are four published brochures on the website.

5) Progress on correspondence with Mendon, MA:

No report.

6) Progress on pesticide licenses:

Olin Lathrop tested the applicator equipment he had acquired. The sprayer has electric motor and worked OK; it will be practical (he tested with plain water).

7) Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Meeting Adjournment:

Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn. Adam Burnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.