

Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

21June2021

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt
Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Charlotte Weigel
Richard Hewitt
Ben Wolfe
Ron Strohsahl

Deb Fountain (Guest)

Agenda:

1. Review of Minutes from last meeting
2. Action Items review
3. Welcome to Pepperell Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (Deb Fountain) + discussion
4. Report on recent treatments (Carmichael Phragmites, Groton Country Club knotweed)
5. Upcoming treatment plans and follow ups (Campbell Well Site knotweed, Emerald Ash Borer sites)
6. Phragmites observations
7. GCT hike report
8. Invasives mapping plans and applications
9. Groton Herald article and future plans
10. Wrap-up discussion

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The first order of business was Review of Minutes from last meeting.

- The minutes were reviewed and edited live on screen.
- Olin Lathrop moved to accept.
 - Richard Hewitt seconded.
 - The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous roll call.

The second order of business was Action Items (AI) Review.

- Action Items:
 1. Ali Hamilton to send picture of new potential invasive in field to Ron Strohsahl for botanical identification - moved to next meeting
 2. Olin Lathrop to propose date for EAB treatment at Petapawag,
 - Set for Thursday June 24th at 10 am, meet at boat launch
 - Will treat at Deer haven as well

- Richard Hewitt: Treatment via stem injection every other year
- Adam Burnett: ash trees previously treated are alive and well
- 3. Olin Lathrop to continue to research and propose a method of treatment for Woolly Adelgid at Sargisson Beach
 - Olin Lathrop: still researching, conflicting information.
 - Brian Bettencourt: injection useful for specimen trees perhaps
- 4. Charlotte Weigel to propose dates and time and organize crew and proceed with study at Priest Conservation Area
 - Charlotte Weigel: met with Ali Hamilton and students. Counted the stems at the 3 treatment plots. Olin Lathrop treated the two plots with foliar spray of Glyphosate
 - 19-21 days post treatment picture shows impact of treatment- growth slowed, but not dead
 - Olin Lathrop: in the fall it can be laid on the ground and treat more completely
 - Adam Burnett: Best to treat while going to seed, if treat too late, not effective – labor day weekend was timing of previous treatment
- 5. Ali Hamilton to report back on student involvement to time with Phragmites growth
 - Follow-up counts to be scheduled next year.
- 6. Olin Lathrop send out an email for treatment of Carmichael swamp Phragmites
 - Olin Lathrop: could not treat now – too wet and interspersed with other plants. Schedule for mid- September
- 7. Olin Lathrop to get back in touch with library and get lectures on in the fall- moved to next meeting
- 8. Adam Burnett and Charlotte Weigel to discuss forming a subcommittee for prioritization of invasive species treatments sites
 - Email group established– subcommittee to continue work and revert back to committee
- 9. Dump site at Nod Rd (Knotweed)
 - a. Invasives growing back – Bittersweet and Knotweed
 - b. Brian Bettencourt: treated the Nod rd with divided plots to determine effective treatments
 - c. Olin Lathrop: Discovered that Triclopyr ¼ strength works very well
 - d. Olin Lathrop: standard treatment glyphosate followed by Triclopyr
 - e. Brian Bettencourt: Site at Hayden rd looks very good
 - f. Olin Lathrop: recently sprayed Hayden rd and Shattuck homestead with glyphosate

The third order of business was Welcome to Pepperell Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (Deb Fountain) + discussion

- Brian Bettencourt: Welcome to Deb Fountain. We can discuss areas of overlap and opportunity.
- Deb Fountain: Endorsed in March by select board. 6 members, meeting weekly. Want to put together a strategic plan. Public education. Partner with conservation trust. Invasives and Native plant advocacy. Suggested native plant lists. Propose working with landscapers. Received a grant through wild and scenic rivers to hire a student, map out a site and propose a plan. Purchased two weed wrenches. Arranged two upcoming trainings 1) on mapping and 2) developing a treatment plans. Nobody on the committee is currently licensed for herbicide application.

- Community event this Friday (June 25th) at the library for public education. Neighborhood outreach planned.
- Olin Lathrop: Offer the Groton pamphlets.
- Deb Fountain: have set of pamphlets/brochures from NH that cover the areas of communication planned
- Brian Bettencourt: Power Points and word documents can be shared for our materials, can be edited as needed
- Olin Lathrop: Much more economical to obtain license and materials and have treatment capabilities within the committee. Herbicides for general use can be used on your own property, but have to be licensed and insured to apply to public property
- Adam Burnett: Is your focus on invasive plants?
- Deb Fountain: This is part of a native plant initiative, so it is invasive treatment to support native biodiversity
- Deb Fountain: Do you do restoration?
- Brian Bettencourt: Not to date. Eliades is the best example of recovery. Cattail growing in where Phragmites has been treated
- Richard Hewitt: CPC can be a good funding source for land reclamation, Is Pepperell pursuing?
- Deb Fountain: Not currently
- Deb Fountain: Do you have a budget?
- Brian Bettencourt: No, but we have received the requested funding as needed. On our list of things to do.
- Olin Lathrop: Can create a gift account. Some paperwork involved to receive money. We haven't needed a lot of money. Mostly for applicators etc. Received grants for pamphlet printing.
- Deb Fountain: CISMA (*Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area*) offers lots of trainings via webinars
- AI: Anyone who is interested in the training should email Deb- 20 spots available 3rd and 4th week of July
- Brian Bettencourt: Will let Deb know of any relevant speakers scheduled by Groton
- Olin Lathrop: Keystone training highly recommended – one intensive weekend at the Harvard Forest-
- Brian Bettencourt: land trust discussion group- Brian Bettencourt to share

The fourth order of business was Report on recent treatments (Carmichael Phragmites, Groton Country Club knotweed)

- Carmichael Phragmites
 - Too wet and too distributed to treat. Will postpone until September
- Groton Country Club knotweed
 - June 9th – treatment at top of stand looks effective. On the slope was difficult- will have to revisit the site
 - Charlotte Weigel: Good spot for restoration.
 - Olin Lathrop: Should we mow? **AI: Olin Lathrop to contact Groton Country Club – recommend mowing regularly**

The fifth order of business was Upcoming treatment plans and follow ups (Campbell Well Site knotweed, Emerald Ash Borer sites)

- EAB at Petapawag: Thursday at 10 am
- Campbell well site. Knotweed towards the trail by the Nashua river. ~ 20 feet from the river. Important to keep away from the river
- **AI: Olin Lathrop to schedule treatment for Campbell well site for this weekend (June 26th/27th).**
- Other sites- Charlotte Weigel: triangle median at Nod rd- **AI: scout out Knotweed site at Nod median during EAB treatment this Thursday (June 24th)**
- Brian Bettencourt: Should we have more than one applicator? Looking for volunteers. Write to Olin and Brian. Classes will be mid to late winter.

The sixth order of business was Phragmites observations at Priest Conservation area

- Covered during action item discussion -see above

The seventh order of business was GCT hike report

Brian Bettencourt: At the Shepley site. 12 people. Lots of interest from attendees on managing invasives on private property. Good educational opportunity. Publicity vehicle. Redouble effort on outreach

The eighth order of business was Invasives mapping plans and applications

- Brian Bettencourt: How can we help? Training will be helpful. Deb Fountain: Edmaps is one platform. Esri is another vendor, Ron has a certificate – Ben Wolfe: still thinking about how to apply. QGIS is a free alternative. Groton Conservation Trust paid for an ESRI license. **AI: Charlotte Weigel schedule a separate meeting for mapping applications- revert back to committee on mapping and prioritization**
- Olin moves to create a separate subcommittee for mapping and prioritization
- Richard Hewitt: seconds the motion
- The motion passed unanimously.

The ninth order of business was Groton Herald article and future plans

- Brian Bettencourt: 3 emails of interest after article
- Olin Lathrop: question received about Ash tree treatment options – treatment recommendations provided. Under what conditions could we treat on private land?
- Brian Bettencourt: Would we need to make a list of conditions that allow treatment
- Richard Hewitt: Preservation of species vs treatment of invasives
- Adam Burnett: We are overwhelmed with the current list of treatments needed on public land
- Brian Bettencourt: Can we facilitate the treatment via aborists?
- Brian Bettencourt: Could we develop a checklist to follow for treatments on private land? Liability and difficult to draw clear distinctions. Propose to table the discussion for now

The last item was Open Discussion

- Charlotte Weigel: legislation under discussion to establish a state body: “Invasive species council” <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S491.pdf> and funds (Bills S.491 and S.563)

- Deb Fountain: Could Pepperell representatives sit on the mapping and prioritization subcommittee? Answer- yes, absolutely
- Ben Wolfe: What about neighboring towns? Olin Lathrop/Brian Bettencourt May have been some work done previously in Littleton. Rick Finley is the contact.

Richard Moved to adjourn.

Olin Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.