

# Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

19July2021

Committee Members Present:

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Adam Burnett

Charlotte Weigel

Ben Wolfe

Ron Strohsahl

Agenda:

- 1) Review of Minutes from last meeting
- 2) Action Items review
- 3) Membership updates
- 4) Report on MA Rivers Alliance interview
- 5) Woolly adelgid treatment options
- 6) Updates on sites and treatments: Phragmites in Eliades, Priest Hill, Ash trees at multiple sites, Knotweed at Nod Rd.
- 7) Update on Pepperell CISMA class on mapping/prioritization
- 8) Farmers and Mechanics site - history and current bittersweet issues
- 9) Open Discussion

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

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

The second order of business was Action Items Review:

- Ali Hamilton to send picture of new potential invasive in field to Ron Strohsahl for botanical identification
  - Completed. Likely Smartweed, native
- Olin Lathrop to continue to research and propose a method of treatment for Woolly Adelgid at Sargisson Beach

- Most successful treatment would be a basal spray. Stem injection not supported by independent research.
- Consensus no viable treatment options available
- Brian Bettencourt: rain may help with Woolly Adelgid
- Olin Lathrop to get back in touch with library and get lectures on in the fall
  - Tabled to fall. Olin to be on vacation. Uncertain of Covid situation in the fall
- All: Anyone who is interested in the CISMA training should email Deb- 20 spots available 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of July
  - Ben Wolfe, Charlotte Weigel, Jonathan Basch and Adam Burnett attended
- Brian Bettencourt to let Deb know of any relevant speakers scheduled by Groton
  - done
- Olin Lathrop to contact Groton Country Club – recommend mowing knotweed treatment site regularly
  - Complete. Will mow as far as the equipment will reach
- Olin Lathrop to schedule treatment for Campbell well site for this weekend (July 24th or 25<sup>th</sup>).
  - Delayed due to rain. Tentatively scheduled for this weekend. AI: Olin to send email on Thursday (July 22<sup>nd</sup>) for schedule.
- Charlotte to scout out knotweed site at Nod Rd median during Emerald Ash Borer treatment
  - See below
- Charlotte to schedule a separate meeting for mapping applications/prioritization subcommittee and revert back to Invasive Species committee (extend invite to Deb Fountain and interested members of the nascent Pepperell committee)
  - See below

The third order of business was Membership Updates

- All new and returning members present sworn in at the Town Hall

The fourth order of business was Report on MA Rivers Alliance interview

- Policy intern for Rivers Alliance contacted Brian Bettencourt regarding state legislation for invasive species management. Interviewed Brian Bettencourt to gauge support of legislation. Online system for coordinating between locales. Not necessarily focused on rivers. Broad scope.
- Coordination at the state level. Grant money might be available.
- Some questions on the specifics of the legislation.
- Create a centralized office. Invasive species advisory group. Grant funding available. A new state coordinator would be appointed.
- **Action Item: Brian Bettencourt to draft a letter of support for state legislation for review by the invasive species committee**
- Richard Hewitt: Funding could support specific projects or development of assessments plans.

The fifth order of business was Woolly adelgid treatment options

- Covered under action items

The sixth order of business was updates on sites and treatments: Phragmites in Eliades, Priest Hill, Ash trees at multiple sites, Knotweed at Nod Rd

- Eliades: Olin Lathrop: A few phragmites stalks visible. Need to treat in fall. Will schedule with Carmichael swamp
- Priest Hill: Olin Lathrop: Going for a habitat management grant with Fish and Wildlife. Leave as an open meadow. Bittersweet treatment professionally, cut the trees and then bittersweet treatment to follow in spring.
  - Phragmites- pictures from June and July compared showing continued impact of treatment
- Ash trees
  - 13 trees treated. Information captured on trees, estimate of canopy death 5- 50%. iNaturalist used to capture initial information. Can't update the initial observation in iNaturalist.
  - Brian Bettencourt: There is a lot of functionality in iNaturalist that can be explored. Brian Bettencourt sent contact information for David Black for iNaturalist support
  - Ben Wolfe: Would be good to have a documented record of treatments and outcomes for future reference, like a laboratory notebook
  - Charlotte Weigel: Would Harvard Forest have some options?
  - Olin Lathrop: Ash trees in DeerHaven have not been treated yet this year. Previously treated in 2019. Will plan for treatment at Deer Haven next year
- Groton Country Club
  - Some growth along the edge of the grass
  - Foliar spray was successful, but untreated Knotweed remains along the hillside
- Nod rd
  - Charlotte Weigel: shared picture of stand at Nod rd. 100 ft of Knotweed about 5- 10 feet deep. Land owned by Conservation Commission
  - Olin Lathrop: We should have consider the prioritization of treatment
  - Olin Lathrop: Will need an RDA
  - Brian Bettencourt: **Action item: Olin Lathrop to ask Nik Gualco if this site is on Concom land**
- Shattuck homestead site previously treated for Knotweed looks good
- CW: Petapawag boat launch: should consider treatment of Bittersweet.
- **Action item: Charlotte Weigel to study site and make a recommendation for treatment of Bittersweet at Petapawag**

The seventh order of business was Update on Pepperell CISMA class on mapping/prioritization

- Prioritization class 1
  - Setting goals and priorities
    - By species, by importance of site to protect other species

- By effectiveness of treatment
- Adam Burnett: By location- e.g., where there is endangered species impact
- Begin with a manageable Control
  - Assess possibility of success, type and timing of control, involvement of other groups
- Types and Timelines and management
  - Integrated pest management, 3 year timeline to get to 99% control
  - Long-term: restoration, stewardship role with community, signage with treatment, Documentation

Charlotte Weigel: Lexington and surrounding areas have a management plan
- Mapping class 2, upcoming Thursday July 22nd

The eighth order of business was Farmers and Mechanics site - history and current bittersweet issues

- Adam Burnett: 50% of the canopy was opened. Bittersweet and honeysuckle coming into the areas opened. Bittersweet growing over the pines and other early succession growth. Opportunity to intervene before it gets out of control.
- Brian Bettencourt: **Action item: Adam Burnett to send an email to the group to schedule a site visit.**

The ninth order of business was Open Discussion

- Ben Wolfe: **Action Item subteam to develop approaches for documentation and mapping**

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Ron Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.