

Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes

16Aug2021

Committee Members Present:

Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Charlotte Weigel
Ben Wolfe
Ron Strohsahl
Ali Hamilton

Agenda:

- 1) 1) Review of Minutes from last meeting
- 2) Action Items review
- 3) Presentation on mapping and features for prioritization of projects
- 4) Farmers and Mechanics Parcel Invasives: Update from site walk and recommendations for treatment and long-term management
- 5) Petapawag Site Invasives: Update from site walk and recommendations for treatment
- 6) Discussion and votes on RDAs/Permissions necessary for treatment at Farmers/Mechanics, Petapawag, and Nod Rd.
- 7) Champney Rd. alley - contact from public and discussion of treatment
- 8) Letter of support for MA legislation
- 9) Open Discussion

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

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

- Ron Strohsahl moved to accept minutes as amended
- Adam Burnett seconded
- Motion passed unanimously

The second order of business was Action Items Review:

- Olin Lathrop to send email on Thursday (July 22nd) for schedule for Campbell well site.
 - Email sent, but treatment cancelled due to rain
- Brian Bettencourt to draft a letter of support for state legislation for review by the invasive species committee
 - pending
- Olin Lathrop to ask Nik Gualco if this site (Nod rd median) is on Concom land
 - Confirmed according to town GIS
- Charlotte Weigel to study site and make a recommendation for treatment of Bittersweet at Petapawag
 - Completed, see below
- Adam Burnett to send an email to group to schedule a site visit for the Farmers and Mechanics location.
 - Completed, see below
- Subcommittee (Charlotte, Ben, Ron and Adam) to develop and present options for documentation and mapping
 - Completed see below

The third order of business was Presentation on mapping and features for prioritization of projects from subcommittee

- Ron Strohsahl: demoed arcGIS/ Identify list of parcels for treatment. Prioritize list. What makes a parcel a higher priority? Started from town map
- Using arcGIS layers - first identify open space in town. Does not include town property not designated as conservation
- Wetlands, vernal pools and endangered species habitat, critical habitat defined by the state ACEC
- Charlotte Weigel contacted Sudbury Trustees for their prioritization list for preservation.
- Adam Burnett: Not enough local information in the ACEC list
- Ron Strohsahl: Can use a point system for features for prioritization
- Adam Burnett: public interest areas, recreation should be prioritized. Old growth should be prioritized
- Jonathan Basch: we can test on the list of sites we have currently
- Ali Hamilton: Connectivity of parcels should be considered
- Charlotte Weigel: Data set will be useful
- Olin Lathrop: We can only use herbicide on public land, includes town, not GCT and MA Audubon
- Olin Lathrop: Factor how likely effective the treatment options are
- Adam Burnett: high priority should be land that we can treat, state land for example will be much longer path
- **Action Item: Jonathan Basch to send list of sites to Ron Strohsahl to add to the GIS data**
- Adam Burnett: Discussed prioritization species

- **Action Item: Ron Strohsahl to take the list of sites and evaluate against the layers. Assign a prioritization as test and bring to committee**
- Ben Wolfe: Propose doing a case study, evaluating the southern section of the Nashua river. Propose mapping knotweed along the section of river. Reach out to NRWA. Survey from land, river and road.
- Charlotte Weigel: Like an early detection effort
- **Action Item: Update from subteam at next meeting**
- Charlotte Weigel: Talked to Sudbury Trust for advice on prioritization and using MIPAG list. Will vary by location. Will create an early detection list

The fourth order of business was Farmers and Mechanics Parcel Invasives: Update from site walk and recommendations for treatment and long-term management

- Adam Burnett: Found Ailanthus on site. Difficult to treat since they send runners after cutting. What is effective is cutting 50% of canopy and treat with Glyphosphate and Triclopyr or paint the bark with herbicide.
- Olin Lathrop: Might be good to keep alive and treat with insecticide to hit the spotted lantern fly in the area
- Olin Lathrop: Bark is very distinctive
- Adam Burnett: Product of opening of the canopy. Lots of bittersweet overgrowing the early succession trees. Still localized. Could spot treat now and get ahead of it. Can treat anything larger than half an inch
- Estimate half day for 3 or 4 people to treat
- Adam Burnett: Recommendation to request permission from ConCom.
- Ali Hamilton raised a motion to request permission for treatment from ConCom
- Ben Wolfe seconded the motion
- **Action Item: Adam Burnett to send email to Nik to request permission for treatment of invasives on Farmers and mechanics site**
- **Action Item: Ben Wolfe to check on another potential Ailanthus**
- Adam Burnett: propose to amend the motion to include planting of natives on site
- Charlotte Weigel: seconded
- Motion passed unanimously

The fifth order of business was Petapawag Site Invasives: Update from site walk and recommendations for treatment

- Bittersweet, buckthorn, multi-flora rose. Visible property
- Propose cut stems and treatment with glyphosphate, follow with foliar spray and cut and treat
- Buckthorn on side of the river - could stem inject, but concern over the proximity to the river.
- Adam Burnett: cut and treat stems individually
- Olin Lathrop: Will need to file an RDA
- Jonathan Basch: Raised a motion for treatment of invasive species at Petapawag boat launch and Knotweed at Nod rd and restorative planting
- Charlotte Weigel seconded
- Unanimously passed
- **Action Item: Olin Lathrop to file an RDA for treatment of Petapawag boat launch**

The sixth order of business was Discussion and votes on RDAs/Permissions necessary for treatment at Farmers/Mechanics, Petapawag, and Nod Rd.

- Captured above

The seventh order of business was Champney Rd. alley - contact from public and discussion of treatment

- Tabled to next meeting

The eighth order of business was Letter of support for MA legislation

- Tabled to next meeting

The ninth order of business was Open Discussion

- New England wetland plants has seed mix for restoration
- Charlotte Weigel: Knotweed growing back at Groton Country Club site
- Tentative Saturday afternoon 8/21 1:00 pm to reschedule the Campbell well treatment site
- Tentative treatment of Phragmites the weekend of the 8/28 and 8/29.
- **Action Item: Charlotte Weigel to send email for location of treatment**
- Groton country knotweed treatment later in September
- Olin Lathrop not available weekend of September 11 and 12th
- Farmers and Mechanics treatment tentatively scheduled for September 4th
- Petapawag treatment for later in September
- Would be beneficial to have additional people qualified to use herbicide
- Priest hill -applying for a habitat grant from the state for treatment of bittersweet

Ali Hamilton moved to adjourn.

Ron Strohsahl Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.