**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**24Jan2022**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett

Other Attendees:

Deb Fountain

Amelia Lee

Agenda:

1) Review of Minutes from last meeting

2) Action Items review

3) Grant proposal review and finalization

4) "Most Wanted" brochure draft review

5) Annual Report text review and finalization

6) Review subcommittee meeting of 12Jan2022 - priority list for mapping, tracking, format

7) 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 minutes were reviewed
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept.
  + Jonathan Basch seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous roll call.

The second order of business was Review of Action Items from last meeting.

1. Olin Lathrop to follow up with Don Black at Parks Committee regarding management plan for Carol Wheeler park
   1. In progress- Don Black wants administrator present as well
2. Charlotte Weigel to send Adam Burnett an email with information on how to become a EDDmaps verifier
   1. Email sent
3. Olin Lathrop to look into the costs and needs for pesticide equipment, training, licensing and insurance fees to be included in grant application
   1. Information sent, followed up, numbers fluctuate, but accurate to current cost
4. Ben, Amelia, Charlotte to work on text of the grant proposal and bring to the next meeting
   1. See below
5. Ron Strohsahl to circulate prioritized list of sites, list of species
   1. Shared google document
6. Send Brian most wanted species, with pictures for new brochure
   1. Done- see below
7. Brian Bettencourt to schedule next meeting as virtual
   1. Done
8. Ron Strohsahl to continue follow-up with MBTA to see if treatment can be arranged without paying the licensing fee for land access
   1. Followed-up by email – no response yet. The website indicates that the application fee would be applicable regardless if able obtain a waiver for license
   2. Olin Lathrop: Either we accept we are stuck or we follow-up with local legislators
   3. Ron Strohsahl: Maybe Department of Public Works (DPW) has access and we could work with them
   4. Olin Lathrop: Tom Dulaney would be a good contact to follow-up with
   5. Brian Bettencourt: Olin – can you reach out to Tom Dulaney?
   6. **Action item: Olin Lathrop to reach out to Tom Dulaney about access to treat MBTA property for knotweed**
   7. **Action item: Brian Bettencourt to reach out to Richard Hewitt if he would be willing to contact Sheila Harrington regarding treatment of MBTA property**
9. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmaps verifier
   1. Progressing

The third order of business was Grant proposal review and finalization

* + Ben Wolfe: Amelia has been working on the grant. Amelia has reached out to contractors for estimates for treatment costs
  + Amelia Lee: Obtained quotes from several contractors
  + Ben Wolfe: Davies had the most reasonable quote for Campbell Well site – proposed mechanical treatment and foliar treatment – cost would be $3500
  + Other contractor had two-year plan for two treatments
  + Ben Wolfe: Do we want to hire a contractor?
  + Olin Lathrop: Nod rd site is ConCom land – could not treat this with contractor
  + Olin Lathrop: Against asking for money to hire a contractor, but in favor of obtaining money for applicator and license
  + Adam Burnett: The bids are useful for the grant to justify how much cheaper our treatment would be
  + Ben Wolfe: The challenge is that it [Knotweed] is dispersed and will take time to find and treat
  + Olin Lathrop: Has anyone been back to see how effective the treatment was?
  + Ben Wolfe: Yes, we have been back, treatment has been effective, can clearly see difference between treated and untreated
  + Brian Bettencourt: Would be smart to use the numbers in the grant proposal
  + Ben Wolfe projected the draft proposal. All reviewed and refined budget request
  + Olin Lathrop: Why do we need source for supplies?
  + Ben Wolfe: It was in the template for the grant
  + Brian Bettencourt: Spell out all abbreviations
  + Adam Burnett: Suggest we add some protective equipment
  + Olin Lathrop: suggest 15 dollars for nitrile gloves
  + Adam Burnett: might be other protective equipment required
  + Olin Lathrop: Price for pesticides may go up or down
  + Deb Fountain: We [Pepperell] obtained exact numbers
  + Ben Wolfe: On the topic of reparation. One reference had indicated that a native seed mix reduced knotweed regrowth
  + Ben Wolfe: treatments would interfere with plantings
  + Adam Burnett: Shade tolerant mixes are available
  + Ben Wolfe: Could treat first year and plant the next year
  + Brian Bettencourt: If we treat without any restoration bittersweet will move in
  + **Action item Adam Burnett to send Ben Wolfe seed mixes to include the grant**
  + Deb Fountain shared links to available mixes:
    - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/shady-woodland-seed-mix-prairie-moon-nursery.html>
    - for seed mixes try NE Wetland Plants - they have a website
  + Olin Lathrop Moved for Ben Wolfe and Charlotte Weigel to finalize and submit grant application for equipment, supplies, training and supplies for restoration
  + Jonathan Basch seconded the motion
  + Motion passed by unanimous vote
  + All: Thanks to Amelia – great job!

The fourth order of business was "Most Wanted" brochure draft review

* Brian Bettencourt presented the brochure and minor edits were made contemporaneously
* **Action item to** **Brian Bettencourt to pdf the most wanted brochure and post to the town the website and approach library.** Are there any upcoming events to distribute paper copies?
* Olin Lathrop moved to approve the brochure
* Ron Strohsahl moved to second the approval
* Brochure passed unanimously

The fifth order of business was Annual Report text review and finalization

* Brian Bettencourt presented the annual report and edits were made contemporaneously
* Ben Wolfe: What happens to the report?
* Brian Bettencourt: It is archived
* Olin Lathrop: Provide the pictures and will be incorporated into the annual report
* Pictures were added and annotated contemporaneously
* Olin Lathrop: Move to approve the annual report as edited
* Adam Burnett: Second the motion
* Motion passed by unanimous vote

The sixth order of business was review subcommittee meeting of 12Jan2022 - priority list for mapping, tracking, format

* Ben Wolfe: Subcommittee completed the activities chartered. **Action item to present on priority list for species at the next meeting**

The seventh order of business was Open Discussion

* Ron Strohsahl: Can we start treating on a visit to ConCom land?
* Olin Lathrop: Can treat on ConCom land outside of wetland buffer. Should notify ConCom (Nik Gualco) by email of plans to treat
* Brian Bettencourt: Use common sense
* Ron Strohsahl: Discussed if we should create a document to capture site visits
* Ben Wolfe: Best to wait until Charlotte returns
* Brian Bettencourt: Would be good to identify successor for the chair

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Ron Strohsahl Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.