**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**25Apr2022**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl (Remote)

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett

Other Attendees:

Amy Ma

Amelia Lee

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes from last meeting
2. Review of action items from last meeting
3. Update on the Invasive Species Bill/ Committee support
4. Plan upcoming site visits and treatments for April/May
5. Plan actions to fulfill the Wild and Scenic grant.  Order supplies and equipment?  Second applicator progress
6. Priest phragmites follow-up.
7. Plan monitoring of areas previously treated.  Additional treatments likely.
8. Review invasive species prioritization list

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 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. Action item to Charlotte Weigel to plan a treatment visit to the Groton Town Forest

* Complete, visit scheduled for May 1st at 10 am- parking lot off of Town Forest Rd
* **Action item for Charlotte Weigel to send an email to the committee for Town Forest visit**

1. Action item to Olin Lathrop to schedule a treatment for Deerhaven and Petapawag by mid may
   * Waiting until trees leaf out further
   * **Action item for Olin Lathrop to assess Deerhaven and Petapawag again and send an email if ready to treat**
2. Action item to Jonathan Basch to email Alison Hamilton requesting student assistance for evaluating effectiveness of treatment at Priest Hill

* Complete – see below agenda item

1. Action item for Adam Burnett to visit Ailanthus that was treated at the Farmers and Mechanics site
   * Complete -no sign of life on tree or new sprouts- looks successful
   * Charlotte Weigel: is there a chance it might sucker and spread?
   * Adam Burnett: Yes, this is why we chose the treatment approach we took. Will visit the site again and check on the treatment area, including other species treated. Might be a good time treat honeysuckle.
   * Olin Lathrop: We could bring a backpack sprayer. [After discussion decided against, can hand pull]
   * We need to send an email to Steve Babin for permission – **Action item for Charlotte Weigel to send email to Steve Babin for permission to work at Town Forest**
2. Action item to committee to review species prioritization list and make edits and any comments for the next meeting
   * See below agenda item
3. Action for Olin Lathrop to provide the information for the status of the Campbell well site to address questions on the grant
   * Complete
4. Action Ben Wolfe to draft response (google doc) to grant question for treatment of knotweed along the river, providing further information of how we would treat
   * Complete
5. Action Olin Lathrop to write to Pete Carson to reserve a table at the River Festival
   * Olin Lathrop contacted Pete Carson. We need a table and chairs
   * Will tell Peter Carson we can bring our own table and chairs
   * June 12th is the festival date- **Action item to add** **River Festival planning to the next agenda**
   * Ben Wolfe: Could bring invasive plants to show
6. Action item for Brian Bettencourt to notify town clerk of new assignments
   * Complete

Standing:

1. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
   * Pending
   * Charlotte Weigel to send an email reminder
   * Charlotte Weigel: App is getting more use, more requests for Verifiers

The third order of business was Update on the Invasive Species Bill/ Committee support

* The invasive species bill now sits before the House Committee on Ways & Means, and it finally has a new bill number: [H.4595](about:blank). The bill's webpage now reflects the redrafted language done in February
* You can write to [members of Ways & Means](about:blank) and ask them to please advance the bill
* You can also [sign your town or organization](about:blank) on to our list of supporters (latest version attached below).
* Jonathan Basch: Move to sign the invasive species committee to support the bill
* Olin Lathrop: Seconded
* Motion to adjourn passed unanimously
* **Action item Jonathan to send email to request Invasive Species Committee to be added to list of supporters for the Invasive Species Bill**

The fourth order of business was plan upcoming site visits and treatments for April/May

* Country club visit treat knotweed
  + **Action item for Jonathan Basch to visit country club and send email**. Want to treat the lower the slope this time, which we didn’t get last year.
* Phragmites at Carmichael swamp
  + Olin Lathrop: see what we learned from the Priest Hill site and see how effective the treatment was.
  + Charlotte Weigel: Very little Phragmites, cat tail is coming in. Looks promising
  + Olin Lathrop: By May, they should be grown in
  + Charlotte Weigel: Last May, before treatment the Phragmites was quite high
  + Olin Lathrop: If equally effective, better to treat only once
  + Charlotte Weigel: Spring treatment was easier
  + Olin Lathrop: The higher the Phragmites is, the more the spread of the treatment
  + Adam Burnett: Advantage to treat when small
  + **Action for Charlotte Weigel to check Priest Hill site again before next meeting**
* Oriental bittersweet etc. at Petapawag
  + Ben Wolfe: relatively low benefit since so well established
  + Olin Lathrop: Let’s treat the bittersweet
  + Charlotte Weigel: We could treat barberry and buckthorn, have to consider the bank
  + Olin Lathrop: Should wait a few more weeks until the bittersweet has greened out
  + Olin Lathrop: Cut it low to the ground and high as we can reach
* Carol Wheeler park – visit with the garden club
  + Olin Lathrop: Have been in touch with Dawn Black, but nothing planned yet. Wait a couple of weeks and try again. Action for Olin to continue follow-up with Dawn Black on visit
  + Ron Strohsahl: Knotweed from MBTA land encroaches on the park
  + Olin Lathrop: Propose a management plan
  + Charlotte Weigel: Good to communicate back to the garden club
  + Olin Lathrop: Try to get someone from the garden club to come along on the walk
  + **Action for Brian Bettencourt** **to coordinate with garden club after Olin Lathrop schedules the site walk (will cc Lisa Murray)**

The fifth order of business was Plan actions to fulfill the Wild and Scenic grant.  Order supplies and equipment?  Second applicator progress

* Charlotte Weigel: Check received, sent the fully executed agreement. We send receipts to Patricia Dufresne.
* Olin Lathrop: it typically takes one pay cycle to be reimbursed
* Adam Burnett: There are some recommended reading materials for herbicide treatment
* Olin Lathrop: The reading materials were written into the grant
* Olin Lathrop: Adam, did you sign up for a course?
* Adam Burnett: 3 sessions still open, will sign-up
* Ben Wolfe: Will Adam be able to treat in the summer if he completes the training?
* Olin Lathrop: Yes, he can treat as soon as he completes the training
* **Action item for Adam Burnett to order reading materials and sign up for course**
* **Action item for Olin Lathrop to order supplies for the grant**
* Ben Wolfe: plants for next spring was a good portion of the grant
* Charlotte Weigel: need to do the pretreatment survey
* **Action item to Ben Wolfe to schedule the pretreatment survey**
* Charlotte Weigel: explained the background on the grant to Amy

The sixth order of business was Priest phragmites follow-up.

* Covered – hold to next meeting

The seventh order of business was Plan monitoring of areas previously treated.  Additional treatments likely.

* Monitor country club, end of Hayden rd, Shattuck homestead and Eliades
  + **Action for Olin Lathrop to visit Shattuck homestead and Hayden Rd,**
  + **Action for Charlotte Weigel to visit Eliades,**
  + **Action for Jonathan Basch to visit country club**

The eighth order of business was Review invasive species prioritization list

* Charlotte Weigel: Combined list from many sources
* Adam Burnett: Should be a live document, should edit and add. Should we add animals? What can we do?
* Charlotte Weigel: Should be able to talk to people about invasive insects but won’t likely treat ourselves

Other business:

* List of priorities parcels and parsing out visits – assigning visits – **Action to add agenda item for next meeting to** **distribute the priority parcels among the committee members for visits**
* Olin Lathrop: Went to weed warrior training – led by Sudbury trustees. Once you are trained on a given weed and could address the treatment without pre-approval. Could be something that we adopt.
* Charlotte Weigel: Would be good to have a contact. Interesting idea.
* Charlotte Weigel: Will be contacting my son’s science teacher for a hands-on activity for students

Olin Lathrop: let’s put this idea as an agenda item for next meeting – **Action to Charlotte Weigel to contact Sudbury and also consult Deb Fountain on weed warrior training**

**Action Add weed warrior training to next meeting agenda**

Olin Lathrop: Recommend more focused effort on fewer species

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Adam Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.