**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**13JUN2022**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Adam Burnett

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from May meeting

2. Update on current projects coming up or seasonal work completed (see list of target dates/months below in table):

* Deerhaven and Petapawag ash tree treatments
* Preist Phragmites
* Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
* Country Club knotweed
* Carmichael Phragmites
* Shattuck swallowwort

3. Update on site visit from Carol Wheeler Park

4. Update on licensed applicator training

5. Participation in invasive species training on June 25th sponsored by Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council

6. Weed Warrior training info from SVT

7. Sign up for priority parcels for exploration/mapping

8. Northwoods

The Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

The first order of business was review of minutes and action items from the June 2nd and May 16th meetings. The minutes from the June 2nd meeting were reviewed:

* Olin Lathrop moved to accept as amended
  + Adam Burnett seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous vote (Brian Bettencourt abstained as was not present at the meeting).
* The minutes from the June May 16th meeting were reviewed:
* Minutes were jointly reviewed and edited contemporaneously
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept as amended
  + Brian Bettencourt seconded.
* The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous vote (Jonathan Basch abstained- was not in attendance)

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

* Action item for Olin to determine a few dates that work for him to treat ash trees at Petapawag and Deerhaven in the next two weekends and email the group to see which date works best, including how many people he needs **DONE**
* Action: Olin to continue to work towards getting a date set for site visit for Carol Wheeler Park **DONE**
* Action: Adam to attend the June 7th class and order all necessary materials
  + Received materials signed up for July 6-8
  + **New Action: Adam will sign-up for herbicide applicator test about a week after training**
* Action: Charlotte will forward email reminder on how to submit receipts to Town Hall **DONE**
* Action: Olin will update the group on status of the backorder of chemical at the next meeting
  + pending further information, everything but one chemical in stock
* Action item for Ben to schedule pretreatment survey at Campbell well site **DONE**
* Action: Charlotte to reach out to Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) about weed warrior training **DONE**
* Action: Bring Your Own chairs to Riverfest, and an extra one if you have one. Jonathan brings a table, Charlotte and Ron will let the group know if they have access to a tent, but we do not have to have one. **DONE**
* Action: Olin will send an email for scheduling who can be at Riverfest at what times. **DONE**
* Action: Charlotte and Brian to coordinate hand-off of brochures, Charlotte will bring some to Riverfest. D**ONE**
* Action: Charlotte will go back and observe Phragmites before next meeting to monitor Phragmites regrowth and growth of other species in the plots **DONE**
* Action: Charlotte will circle back to Alison to see when her class can count live Phragmites stems – targeting end of May **DONE**
* Action: Brian will take a look at the Phragmites stands in Carmichael before the next meeting and report back on water levels in the swamp and how much the stands have increased since last year. **DONE**
* Action: Ron is going to add a column to the priority parcels list for committee members to add their initials to claim intentions to visit a parcel and report back the extent of invasive plant species infestations that are there, and if they recommend mapping and/or treatment. Special attention paid for EDRR species from the invasive species list on a separate tab in the Google Doc
  + Ron not in attendance, will discuss assignments further
* Action: Charlotte to follow up with GDRMS 7th grade science teacher and Brian about possible activity this fall
  + Scheduled for August 24th, time TBD
  + The area that started the discussion is now inaccessible due to construction
  + Brian, there will likely be other areas on the school grounds that have invasive species
  + **New Action for Charlotte and Brian to go to GDRMS the week before August 24th and scout out site**

Standing:

1. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
   1. ongoing

The third order of business was the update on current projects coming up or seasonal work completed:

* Deerhaven and Petapawag ash tree treatments
  + Completed, successful, good publicity for the committee
  + Charlotte Weigel: Would be good have cards to share when we are out working
  + Olin Lathrop: Could have link provided on the card
  + Brian Bettencourt: The website is difficult to find on the town site
  + Brian Bettencourt: Laminated sign might be good
  + Charlotte Weigel: variation among the trees some 50% living and some ~90% dead
  + Olin Lathrop: The treated trees are still standing
  + Charlotte Weigel: The cut trees are now bushlike sprouts
* Preist Phragmites
  + Charlotte Weigel: Alison brought her students back and did the counts of the plots. Charlotte shared the pictures in the Zoom meeting
  + The area that was treated in the fall did not resprout
  + Charlotte Weigel: it is possible there will be less growth of other species when it is treated twice
  + Olin Lathrop: The fall treatment required a lot of herbicide because of the height of the Phragmites
  + Olin Lathrop: Fall is great for killing Phragmites, spring might use less herbicide and have less impact on other species
  + Olin Lathrop: Might be good to treat Carmichael in the fall and then treat in spring for any regrowth
  + Charlotte Weigel: Regrowing Phragmites is very stunted - revisit and treat in the fall
  + Olin Lathrop: Target treatment of the spring treatment plot by end of September
  + Charlotte Weigel: More small growth of Phragmites back in the woods
* Eliades
  + There are two little spots of Phragmites, recommend treating
* Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
  + **Charlotte Weigel: Propose 9-10 of July. Action for Charlotte Weigel to coordinate with Ben and send email regarding schedule for knotweed treatment at Campbell well site**
* Country Club knotweed
  + Propose at 10 am at the country club, **Action for** **Jonathan to send an email to committee to see if anyone can join**
* Carmichael Phragmites
  + Olin Lathrop: Should treat now before it gets too tall and then again in the fall
  + **Action for Olin to schedule a time with Brian; Propose 9 am on Sunday Jonathan to send out email on schedule**
* Shattuck and Hayden knotweed
  + **Olin to visit the sites and plan to treat after country club**
  + Shattuck swallow-wort
  + Last year’s treatment was June 26th - might be the same day this year

The fourth order of business was Update on site visit from Carol Wheeler Park

* Olin Lathrop: Visited and saw the vision for the management for the site. **Action Olin** **to prepare a management plan for Carol Wheeler Park (so we don't have to file a RDA).** Will take several weeks

The fifth order of business was update on licensed applicator training

* Adam signed up for July 6th- 8th
* Charlotte Weigel: Should shoot for right after the class to take the test
* Olin Lathrop: When is the next test available?
* Adam Burnett: Need to register
* Olin Lathrop: Takes a while to get paperwork completed

The sixth order of business was Participation in invasive species training on June 25th sponsored by Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council

* **Action Olin to distribute pdf on workshop to the committee**
* Olin, Jonathan and Charlotte tentative attendees

The seventh order of business was Weed Warrior training info from SVT

* Charlotte reached out to Kristen Obrien, cater to whatever species you are interested in. Consider, if we are interested in being a host organization. Comments on how to advertise. They are seeing people organizing neighborhood events. Can be qualified for different species.
* Olin Lathrop: We might be spread thin to do it now

The eighth order of business was Sign up for priority parcels for exploration/mapping

* **Charlotte to assign list of properties. Charlotte to send the link to the google doc file**

The ninth order of business was Northwoods

* Charlotte Weigel: Saw a tree of heaven at Northwoods about 10” dbh, on private land, surrounded by swallow-wort. Will send out email of GPS location, easy to see from the street
* Olin Lathrop: Could talk to the landowner, black swallow-wort is also a concern
* Charlotte Weigel: swallow-wort may be on public land
* **Action for Charlotte to send out email with GPS location of Ailanthus at Northwoods and action for Olin Lathrop to visit site**
* Charlotte Weigel: Knotweed also on Northwoods, lots of autumn olive

Voting on Interns

Amy Ma is interested in doing the same thing Amelia did September to November

* Mapping, public outreach
* Brian Bettencourt: posters at the transfer station, library, get free labor. Someone has to be willing to help her
* Charlotte Weigel: Will have permission to accompany her on the mapping trips
* Charlotte Weigel: We can give her direction. Brian and Jonathan volunteered to help
* Charlotte Weigel raises a motion to take Amy Ma as in intern for the fall
* Olin seconded
* Motion passed unanimously
* Alison has a student that is looking to place at intern - goal is ~ 300 hours.
* Action to talk to Ron next meeting - not certain we can support

Brian Bettencourt Moved to adjourn.

Olin Lathrop Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.