**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**11JUL2022**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ben Wolfe

Remote Attendees:

Ron Strohsahl

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from June 13th meeting
2. Update on current projects coming up or seasonal work completed:

* Priest Phragmites
* Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
* Country Club knotweed
* Carmichael Phragmites
* Shattuck swallowwort

1. Update on licensed applicator training
2. Participation in invasive species training on June 25th sponsored by Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council - follow up
3. Sign up for priority parcels for exploration/mapping
4. Northwoods follow up
5. Groton Public Library summer reading program

The Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

The first order of business was review of minutes and action items from June 13th meeting

* The minutes were reviewed and edited contemporaneously
* Ben Wolfe moved to accept.
  + Olin Lathrop seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by vote in favor of the motion by Jonathan Basch, Olin Lathrop and Charlotte Weigel. Ron Strohsahl and Ben Wolfe abstained, as they were not in attendance at the June 13th meeting.

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

1. Adam to sign up for herbicide applicator test- will carry action item to next meeting
2. Charlotte and Brian to go to GDRMS the week before August 24th and scout out site
3. Charlotte to coordinate with Ben and send email regarding schedule for knotweed treatment at Campbell well site -**Done**
   1. Olin, Charlotte and Ben are available on Saturday July 16th
   2. **New action for Charlotte Weigel to send email for schedule for Campbell well visit on Saturday July 16th**
4. Jonathan to send email to committee for treatment schedule at Groton Country Club and Carmichael Swamp -**Done**
5. Olin to prepare a management plan for Carol Wheeler Park- ongoing
6. Olin to distribute pdf on invasive species treatment workshop to the committee- **Done** (Brian)
7. Charlotte to send the link to the google doc file with the list of priority parcels for monitoring  [link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YXqNTihGLeAkw4CsRsvbfwsh8T43D1fISFp4TXCwTW4/edit#gid=597193330) -**Done**
8. Charlotte to send out email with GPS location of Ailanthus at Northwoods- **Done**
9. Olin to visit Northwoods site- completed see below item -**Done**

Standing:

1. Adam to attend herbicide applicator training
2. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
3. 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 to the EDRR species from the invasive species list on a separate tab in the Google Doc - **Done**

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

Update on current projects coming up or seasonal work completed:

* Priest Phragmites
  + Return in the fall for treatment- target late September
* Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
  + Scheduled for July 16th. Prioritize Campbell well site. Will visit Nod rd if there is time
  + Charlotte Weigel: Nod Rd was mowed recently
  + Ben Wolfe: Should we check the plots again before treatment? Will take a quick look before treatment
  + Olin Lathrop: Mosquitos are bad there
  + Olin Lathrop: If it is raining or going to rain, we can’t spray. Will use wetlands approved formula
  + Charlotte Weigel: It will be useful to bring a rope to pull the Knotweed back from the bank of the river
* Country Club knotweed
  + Treated June 18th- partially successfully, Olin did foliar spray of Knotweed. Ladder worked pretty well.
  + Visited Shattuck and Hayden after visit to country club - will treat again in the fall
* Carmichael Phragmites
  + Olin Lathrop: Too wet. Lots of Phragmites in shallow water with deep muck. Will try again in the fall when it is drier.
  + Ben Wolfe: Surprised it isn’t drier with the drought

Other:

* Eliades- treat Phragmites stragglers in fall
* Groton town forest: Euonymus and buckthorn treatment in the fall

The fourth order of business was update on licensed applicator training:

* Moved to next meeting

The fifth order of business was participation in invasive species training on June 25th sponsored by Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council- follow-up

* Olin Lathrop: Training was really good
* Charlotte Weigel: Chris Politan was the trainer, it was held at Williams Barn. Very informative. Covered the major species. Lots of cutting and targeted treatment.
* Examples of other towns using volunteer crews for treatments - eg High school seniors earning volunteer hours in Harvard
* Olin Lathrop: Groton Town Forest barberry is a good example where we could have used more volunteers

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

* Charlotte Weigel: assigned Brian to several parcels including Batten Woods, Fritz and Helen Walker woods. Charlotte Weigel took several properties off Chicopee rd Torrey woods, Sawtell woods- lots of trails in Sawtell but not all properties have good trail access
* Ben Wolfe to adopt Campbell well, Surrenden Farm
* Charlotte Weigel: If we map Surrenden Farm it might work out for Amy Ma to participate
* Jonathan Basch to take Johnston and associated areas and part of Groton Town Forest
* The Squannacook water supply area, what do we know about it? - might need permission to visit
* Charlotte Weigel: Would it be worthwhile to visit to have a look for early detection?
* Ron Strohsahl: The Squannacook water supply area is along the railroad trail easement
* Olin Lathrop: South of Cutler field?
* Committee reviewed the GIS map online to locate the Squannacook water supply area- Next to Town Forest- Jonathan Basch to take that area
* **Action item to add a column to Google spreadsheet to record visits**
* Brownloaf property not claimed yet. Power lines run through it. Some wetlands
* Goal to start populating the spreadsheet with visit notes

The seventh order of business was Northwoods follow-up

* reviewed pictures of suspected Ailanthus. Bark pattern appears to be consistent with Ailanthus. Black Swallow-wort under the tree and probably in the meadow
* Olin Lathrop: Thin sliver of town land
* Close to trail might be in town land
* Would be good to contact the landowner and explore options
* Olin Lathrop: **Action item for Olin Lathrop to contact to landowner adjacent to Northwoods to discuss land boundaries and options for treatment**
* Olin Lathrop: Mowing the field more often may control the Swallow-wort
* Charlotte Weigel: tree has bloomed but no seeds or pods yet

The eight order of business was Groton Public Library summer reading program

* Charlotte Weigel: the theme this year is take a hike or something like that. Letterboxing - Geocaching. Talked to the librarian about putting the invasive species treasure hunt out on the table. Will update with plants that are easier to identify this time of year. Put a link to the town website and Invasive committee page
* Olin Lathrop moved to authorize to distribute the invasive species treasure hunt at the library
  + Ben Wolfe seconded the motion
  + The motion passed unanimously

Other discussion:

* Ron still has the brochures. Will bring to Campbell well if available. If not will find another time

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Ben Wolfe Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.