**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**15Aug2022**

Remote Attendees:

Brian Bettencourt

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from July 12th meeting
2. Update on second applicator licensing completion
3. Update on current projects coming up or seasonal work completed:

* Preist Phragmites
* Country Club knotweed
* Carmichael Phragmites
* Shattuck swallowwort

1. Review of Wild and Scenic Grant to discuss timeline and plan for upcoming work - Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
2. Update on priority parcels exploration/mapping from sign up at July meeting
3. Update on Carole Wheeler Park
4. Northwoods follow up
5. Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Fall conference: Managing Invasives at the local level workshop/panel discussion participation

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02PM.

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

* The minutes were reviewed
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept the minutes as amended.
  + Ron Strohsahl seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous vote.

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

1. Charlotte Weigel to send email for schedule for Campbell well visit on Saturday July 16th **- Done**
2. Action item to add a column to Google spreadsheet to record visits - **Done**
3. Action item for Olin Lathrop to contact to landowner adjacent to Northwoods to discuss land boundaries and options for treatment
   * Not yet, will do it when I get back ~Early September.

Standing:

1. Charlotte and Brian to go to GDRMS the week before August 24th and scout out site
2. Olin to prepare a management plan for Carol Wheeler Park-
   * ongoing- not finished yet. An initial RDA will enable us to move forward
   * Brian Bettencourt: Spent some time talking to Michael Scarcia who owns building next to the park. Will file an RDA. Charlotte Weigel to email Michael regarding discussion
3. Adam to attend herbicide applicator training -**Done**
   * Completed the training, test is online, signed up and ready to go once completes the review
   * Adam: Strict format, have to be on camera during the test. Eyes have to visible on camera. 70% required passing
   * Should be set for the 27th and 28th scheduled treatments
   * Olin: you probably need to pay for the license after the test
   * Charlotte Weigel: There is a line item in the grant for the license
   * Ron Strohsahl: Does he need to inform the town to get insurance?
   * Olin Lathrop: Once you pass the test, you need to ask Mark for insurance letter. Will need proof of insurance to get the license
   * Olin Lathrop: Put a tub with herbicides (two types of glyphoshates one for general use and one for wetland use) in the shed with the original label
4. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier

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

* Deerhaven and Petapawag ash tree treatments
* Preist Phragmites
* Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed
* Country Club knotweed
* Carmichael Phragmites
  + swamp water level is much lower,
  + Charlotte Weigel: propose Phragmites treatment at Carmichael, Priest and Eliades
* Shattuck swallowwort
  + Olin Lathrop: Made some progress- lighter than last year. The field was mowed. The backpack spraying is scheduled within a few days

The fourth order of business was Review of Wild and Scenic Grant to discuss timeline and plan for upcoming work - Campbell well site/Nod Rd knotweed

* Charlotte Weigel: Ben shared pictures from Campbell well site, very effective treatment so far. Opened up the forest floor. Along the river, the knotweed is still somewhat green
* Olin Lathrop: Different formulation used along the river, lacks surfactant. The upland mix is a potassium salt
* Charlotte Weigel: Can we spot treat the stands along the river?
* Olin Lathrop: Recommend we treat with triclopyr next in early October to treat the stragglers to the left of the trail. Adam will treat to the right of the trail
* Adam Burnett: Start at one end and back out slowly
* Olin Lathrop: Start out farthest from the car and work back. Olin Lathrop will send Adam his logs for a guide. Make it wet but not dripping when applying herbicide
* Ben Wolfe: Following-through with the reseeding. Identified species that grow well in the area. Deer tongue grass grows well.
* Olin Lathrop: Grass will be resistant to triclopyr
* Charlotte Weigel: grant says we will be seeding April 2023- will need to amend
* Brian Bettencourt: Love the idea of transplanting but we got money to spend on seedlings
* Adam Burnett: Can we transplant Clethra from adjoining land?
* Charlotte Weigel: Seeds will be planted in the fall and seeds and saplings will be planted in the spring.
* Ben Wolfe: Recommend seeding in the fall
* Charlotte Weigel: Need to write to amend the grant; **Action for Charlotte to send email to amend the grant**
* Ben Wolfe: False Solomon’s seal and Salomon’s seal would be good to seed/transplant
* Charlotte Weigel: transplants and seedlings in the fall. **Action item for Ben to purchase seeds**
* Olin Lathrop: Mid-November recommended for spreading seeds
* Olin Lathrop: Mid October treatment will get any stragglers with Triclopyr
* Olin Lathrop: Adam will need to get Nod rd by ~ 1st of week of September
* Charlotte Weigel: Not that much at Nod rd relative to Campbell Well
* Charlotte Weigel: Recommending sending a report by beginning of December on what was done. Will need receipts when available
* Ron Strohsahl: Should put Ben’s photos in the update
* Adam Burnett: Are we set with chemicals for this treatment?
* Olin Lathrop: Yes, have purchased more of the upland mix, have to be careful to stay away from the river

The fifth order of business was an update on priority parcels exploration/mapping from sign up at July meeting

* Reviewed the spreadsheet, updates from Charlotte and Jonathan on sites. Brian is planning visits in September
* Brian Bettencourt: Discussion of more loosestrife in the area this year. Confirmed by others. Not certain of cause.

The sixth order of business was Update on Carol Wheeler Park

* Covered above

The seventh order of business was Northwoods follow up

* Olin Lathrop will contact homeowner when he gets back regarding Ailanthus, could be used to monitor the presence of Spotted lantern fly
* Ron Strohsahl: We don’t have a treatment plan for lantern fly
* Olin Lathrop: We can treat trees specifically
* Brian Bettencourt: I am the chair of the Groton garden club Grotonfest table and we should get our brochures to hand out. **Action item for Ron/Brian to exchange brochures to be available for Grotonfest September 24th**

The eighth order of business was Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Fall conference: Managing Invasives at the local level workshop/panel discussion participation

* Olin Lathrop: Will be planning to attend the Fall conference. Will be attending for the ConCom.
* Olin Lathrop moved that we participate in the MACC panel discussion
  + Ben seconded
  + Motion passed by unanimous vote
* Ron moved to nominate Olin to represent the committee on the panel
  + Ben seconded
  + Motion passed by unanimous vote
* **Action Olin will reach out to Michele to find out what information will be useful for the panel discussion. Will prepare some slides accordingly and distribute drafts to the committee**

Brian Moved to adjourn.

* Olin Seconded.
* The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.