**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**23Jan2023**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Ron Strohsahl

Olin Lathrop

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett

Other Attendees:

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from December 19th meeting

2. Review Town annual report submission

3. Follow up on discussion of Hoary Alyssum

4. Update on RDA approvals for Carmichael Swamp and Town Forest

5. Update on meeting with Town Forest committee for requesting MOU

6. Discuss any updates on insurance for applicator

7. Discuss progress and plan for upcoming work for grant: seedling purchasing

8. Review prioritized parcel list with updated mapping from Ron

9. Discuss community sponsored lantern fly lecture

10. Discuss *Phragmites australis* growing next to the Nashua rail trail on the northern side (closer to library)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The first order of business was review of minutes and action items from May meeting

* The minutes were reviewed
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept.
  + Charlotte Weigel seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous roll call.

Action items:

New:

1. Action for Charlotte Weigel to reach out to Agricultural commission and U Mass extension regarding Hoary Alyssum

* Reached out to U Mass extension but not yet to the Agricultural commission

1. Action for Charlotte Weigel to email the approved statement to the Destination Groton contact

* Done – no response received

1. Action for Charlotte Weigel to send the interim grant update to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Council

* Done - forwarded the response to the committee

1. Action for Olin Lathrop to officially request Professor Tawny Simisky to come and speak and request funding from the commissioner of trust funds

* Done – see agenda item below

1. Action for Brian Bettencourt to contact the library regarding the use of the upstairs room

* Done

1. Action for Charlotte Weigel to tag the GPS location of the Phragmites along the rail trail and bring to the next meeting

* Done – see agenda item below

Standing:

* Olin to file RDA for treating invasives species within 100 feet of a wetland in Town Forest
  + Olin to file RDA for treatments once further information is available (i.e., from meeting with the Town Forest Committee)
* Action for Ron to prepare a map of town land for prioritization discussions
  + Tabled to the next meeting as Ron was not in attendance
* Action for Brian to visit Carmichael in the winter when frozen to observe the area more closely
  + Completed
* Action for Charlotte to work with Amy Ma on presentation on findings in Town Forest.
  + Amy has completed the presentation, meeting pending
* Olin to talk to Michelle Girard from Wild and Scenic Rivers Council to see what they think about taking on insurance for applicator
  + Sent another email, Michelle responded and passed on to another recipient. Waiting to hear back
* Charlotte to Request to attend Town Forest Committee meeting to report invasives found in Town Forest
  + Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 pm
* Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
  + Started looking into it on the EDDmaps site

The second order of business was Review Town annual report submission

* The report was reviewed and edited contemporaneously
* Agreed to add photos
* Olin Lathrop moved to approve the report as edited
* Jonathan Basch seconded
* Motion to approve the report as edited passed by unanimous vote

The third order of business was Follow up on discussion of Hoary Alyssum

* Charlotte Weigel reached out to a U Mass extension weed specialist expert Randall (Randy) Prostak – Hoary Alyssum is considered a noxious weed not on invasive species list
* Danger to horses as it causes laminitis
* For a horse that is grazing it is not a preferred food source. Danger when it is present at high levels (>50%) in hay.
* In terms of locations, it is found in Westville and Southwick MA and several spots in NH
* Example of being spread through mowing equipment
* “If you are caring for a field, it should not be a problem”
* For chemical management recommend Dicampa, broad leaf herbicide
* Discuss and reach out to the Ag Commission
* For our purposes, we will circle back with Anna Eliot in the spring and visit the site
* Anna burned her pile of pulled Hoary Alyssum
* Olin Lathrop: Did he say anything regarding Triclopyr?
* Charlotte Weigel: He did not- we can email him, will gladly do it
* **Action for Charlotte to email Randy Prostak regarding treatment of Hoary Allysum with Triclopyr**
* Ben Wolfe: You mentioned it is a noxious weed but not an invasive species. How much time should we spend on it? Since it is more of an agricultural concern
* Charlotte Weigel: Agree, I think we did our due diligence. Now we are aware of it, based on my reading it is not risk to our forests and wetlands
* More of an economical reason for being a concern in the West.
* Adam Burnett: Has to be more of a manicured site. In Europe it takes over in disturbed areas
* Olin Lathrop: Mowing and spreading is a concern, if we are using the same equipment to mow town land.
* Olin Lathrop: should look at town lands and see if it is there
* Adam Burnett: For areas that we maintain as open lands, should make sure that the equipment is properly cleaned.
* Olin Lathrop: I will mention at the Conservation Commission (ConCom) meeting
* **Action for Olin to mention the risk of spreading Hoary Allysum by mowing to the ConCom**
* Charlotte Weigel: Should we send it to a list of people? Will send to the Agriculture Commission
* **Action for Charlotte to contact the Agriculture Commission regarding Hoary Allysum**
* Olin Lathrop: Will bring up to Concom to make sure they are aware of it

The fourth order of business was Update on RDA approvals for Carmichael Swamp and Town Forest

* See above

The fifth order of business was Update on meeting with Town Forest committee for requesting MOU

* See above

The sixth order of business was Discuss any updates on insurance for applicator

* See above

The seventh order of business was Discuss progress and plan for upcoming work for grant: seedling purchasing

* Ben Wolfe: started thinking about it and looking at the website but action not required before March

The eighth order of business was Review prioritized parcel list with updated mapping from Ron

* Moved to the next meeting

The ninth order of business was Discuss community sponsored lantern fly lecture

* Contacted professor Simisky – no longer interested in presenting, but suggested some other people from MDAR. Elisabeth Barnes – agreed to speak, scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at the Sr Center, refreshments served at 6:30 bring cookies and juice. Presentation to start at 7 – presentation 7-8. State employee – no fee. Olin Lathrop will send the announcement to Wild and scenic council and others
* Will send the announcement to neighboring town contacts

The tenth order of business was Discuss Phragmites australis growing next to the Nashua rail trail on the northern side (closer to library)

* Charlotte Weigel shared a summary slide. Right along the rail trail extended into the wetland. Dropped a GPS pin at the location. Rail trail is on state land. Abuts the town property along the field. Very small area of Phragmites
* Jonathan Basch: Walked along the fence behind the playing fields. No sign of Phragmites from that side, but did see knotweed probably on Lawrence academy property behind the field.
* Charlotte Weigel: Does not appear to be beyond the tree line along the trail.
* Olin Lathrop: Would be good to treat this year. Would be good to treat in the spring
* Charlotte Weigel: Would like to see how the fall only treatment looked at Priest site
* Olin Lathrop: Not proposing spring only, proposing spring and fall. Better chance of killing in the fall if treated in the spring
* Charlotte Weigel: Don’t think we have the data that treating and spring and fall is better than treating just in the fall.
* Olin Lathrop: it is my opinion that is more reliable/easier to treat in the fall if site was treated in the spring. Would like to avoid treating the 12 foot tall plants in the fall. Would probably not be any more herbicide for spring and fall treatment than a single treatment in the fall.
* Charlotte Weigel: I would prefer to use less chemicals, but if you think it is the same amount of chemicals for treated in both spring and fall that would be acceptable
* Olin Lathrop: When it was lower it was easier to target the spray
* Olin Lathrop: efficacy is there as long as you treat in the fall
* Olin Lathrop: We will need an RDA as it is a wetland
* Olin Lathrop: Then we can contact Matt Amidon at the state to notify regarding plan to treat
* Charlotte Weigel: Will some of this be addressed in the RDA?
* Olin Lathrop: Yes, will be captured in the RDA. We can list both the town and the state as landowners
* **Action item for Olin to file RDA for treatment of Phragmites along the rail trail**

Any other business:

* Diane reached out from Wild and Scenic – the deadline of the grants is end of the month. Will not submit something this year as we are actively working on the current grant

Carol Wheeler park:

* Charlotte Weigel: Olin Are you filing an RDA?
* Olin Lathrop: I prepared a management plan and sent it to the Parks commission. They sent it to the Garden club, but things have stalled. Getting the management plan approved means we don’t have to continually file RDAs
* Charlotte Weigel: Sounds like we will have to reach back to the Parks commission
* **Action for Olin to contact parks commission on the status of the management plan for Carol Wheeler park**
* Charlotte Weigel: Was contacted by land trust in Westford that is working on mile a minute vine. Spread through developments in the area. Do pulls of the mile a minute vine every two weeks. Challenge in treatment, it is hard to get everything.
* They don’t have a town committee best way to attack is by community education
* Next committee meeting falls on the 3rd Monday Presidents Day – moved to the following Monday – February 27th
* Adam Burnett: Did receive reimbursement from the town and got the new license [so did Olin]
* Charlotte Weigel: Awesome, thank you, looking forward to a very active year
* Olin Lathrop: U Mass is sending out notices all the time for training
* Charlotte Weigel: noticed applicator credits for the trainings
* Olin Lathrop: We only need 6 contact hours every 3 years- it is not difficult.
* Ann Carpenter: At first, I thought invasive species was an impossible problem, it is good to see that there are things that can be done – do have a question about Greenbrier. There is an area in the dog park, it seems to be in the dog park and it is in the Town Forest. It is really encroaching
* Jonathan Basch: Yes, it is something we considered for the Town Forest. Greenbrier as a native plant supports other native species, insects, birds and small mammals. Differentiating from invasive multi-flora rose for example. The trails committee could have a role in control where it is encroaching on trails.
* Ann Carpenter: Also interested in developing educational materials and interested in GIS
* Olin Lathrop: We should recommend Ann to be appointed to the invasive species committee
* Charlotte seconded
* Approved by unanimous vote
* Charlotte Weigel: Will have to go to the town website to get the form to register your interest in joining the committee.
* **Charlotte will email the select board that we voted to recommend the appointment of Ann Carpenter to the invasive species committee**

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Jonathan Basch Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.