**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**27Feb2023**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett (remote)

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from January 21st meeting
2. Update on meeting with Town Forest committee for requesting MOU
3. Update on RDA approvals for Carmichael Swamp, treating Phragmites near the rail trail and Town Forest
4. Discuss any updates on insurance for applicator
5. Discuss plan for upcoming work for grant: seedling purchasing
6. Review prioritized parcel list with updated mapping from Ron
7. Discuss community sponsored lantern fly lecture
8. Update on Pepperell and Shirley invasive species groups work

The Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

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

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

Action items:

New:

1. Action for Charlotte to email Randy Prostak regarding treatment of Hoary Allysum with Triclopyr
   1. pending
2. Action for Olin to mention the risk of spreading Hoary Allysum by mowing to the ConCom
   1. completed - John Smigelski was aware of it already
3. Action for Charlotte to contact the Agriculture Commission regarding Hoary Allysum
   1. sent an email to the email address on the town website, but no longer current. Suggested by Anna Eliot to meet with the Agricultural Commission (AgCom). Plan to offer to meet with the AgCom to discuss and offer to be any assistance
4. Action item for Olin to file RDA for treatment of Phragmites along the rail trail
   1. Olin Lathrop: There is Phragmites already on broadmeadow - is it really worthwhile to treat?
   2. Brian Bettencourt: Argument for is that is small and isolated, could buy time for other control options. Does it preclude other treatments?
   3. Committee consensus to move forward with the RDA
5. Action for Olin to contact parks commission on the status of the management plan for Carol Wheeler park
   1. management plan approved. Working with Nik Gualco on the next steps. Will bring to ConCom next and then will need to get approved by the state.
6. Action for Charlotte to email the select board that we voted to recommend the appointment of Ann Carpenter to the invasive species committee
   1. completed

Standing

1. Action for Ron to prepare a map of town land for prioritization discussions
   1. done
2. Olin to talk to Michelle Girard from Wild and Scenic Rivers Council to see what they think about taking on insurance for applicator
   1. Have not done anything further on it. Recommend retiring as action item - tabled
3. Charlotte to Request to attend Town Forest Committee meeting to report invasives found in Town Forest - Done
4. Olin to file Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/RDA for treatment in Town Forest
   * 1. Olin filed the RDA and drafted the MoU
     2. Regarding the MoU-
        1. Jonathan Basch - Town Forest committee noted restriction on chemical treatments within 400 feet of the well
        2. Jonathan Basch- Town Forest committee requested that we post signs for treatment adjacent to trails
        3. Ron Strohsahl: Could order documents to be used for posting herbicide treatments
        4. Charlotte Weigel: Moved to approve the MoU between Town Forest and Invasive Species committee with the following two additions:
           1. agree to add the appropriate signage for treatment
           2. will not treat with pesticides within 400 feet of the well
        5. Brian Bettencourt: Seconded
        6. Motion passed by unanimous vote
5. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
   1. working on training

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

* Captured above
* Charlotte Weigel: Will send the approved MoU to town forest and will request a vote to approve

The third order of business was Update on RDA approvals for Carmichael Swamp, treating Phragmites near the rail trail and Town Forest

* RDA for town forest is filed
* Brian Bettencourt: Still not able to get all the way out to the site
* Adam Burnett: Could we use a kayak later in the year?
* Brian Bettencourt: In the spring when the water is higher, will try to get out again

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

* covered above

The fifth order of business was Discuss plan for upcoming work for grant: seedling purchasing

* Need to reach out to Deb Fountain (Pepperell native plant advisory committee) about how to buy plants from New England Wetland Plants. Will get more information on what is available and then visit the Campbell well site
* Ron Strohsahl: Might be cheaper to use a local nursery.
* Ben Wolfe: Will send an email to plan a site visit
* **Action for Ben to send an email to plan a visit to the Campbell well site to plan the plantings**
* Ben Wolfe: Does that area flood?
* Olin Lathrop: ~once a decade

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

* moved to the next meeting

The seventh order of business was Discuss community sponsored spotted lanternfly lecture

* Olin Lathrop: Lecture is March 16th - everyone should bring something- cookies, juice etc.
* Charlotte Weigel: Being sent to other committees/towns- been posted in the library - Charlotte Weigel to request to be posted to the town website
* Olin Lathrop: Committee members who want to help should arrive at 6:00, refreshments at 6:30, lecture starts at 7
* Olin Lathrop: Will contact Groton channel
* Charlotte to send the updated flier to all committee members
* Olin Lathrop: to send to Wild and Scenic Stewardship council
* Anne will post on Facebook
* Brian Bettencourt sending to talk about Groton

The eighth order of business was Update on Pepperell and Shirley invasive species groups work

* Charlotte Weigel: Met with Deb Fountain and Sherri. Talked about updated grant proposals. Shirley is continuing to work on the park project. Deb submitted 3 applications. 1) for equipment 2) to fund a flier to more widely publicize what they are doing. 3) Project to map culverts - work on steep slopes- might be applicable to the Country Club knotweed site
* Deb working on standards for native plantings at landscaping
* Charlotte Weigel: Will get further information

Any other business:

* Reminder on conflict-of-interest training - email from Dawn Dunbar on Feb 13th
* Riverfest - do we need anything to reserve a table at Riverfest?
* Adam Burnett: Will let them know that we want a table
* Charlotte Weigel: can someone (Ron) identify signs to post for treatments?
* **Action for Ron to identify signs to post for treatments**
* Brian Bettencourt: move to Ron prepares sign for herbicide treatment - will put treatment date
* Fish and game is treating knotweed in the Town Forest - we should connect with them

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Jonathan Basch Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.