**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**1 May 2023**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch (remote)

Ron Strohsahl

Brian Bettencourt

Ann Carpenter

Olin Lathrop

Adam Burnett (remote)

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from Apr 10th meeting
2. Update on RDA approvals for Carmichael Swamp, treating Phragmites near the rail trail and Town Forest
3. Discuss plan for restoration work for Campbell Well/Surrenden knotweed and update from Wild and Scenic Council on changes in grant work
4. Discuss most recent information from Mass Fish and Wildlife on approval process for work in Town Forest and how to proceed
5. Groton Farm landscape plan comments
6. Plan for spring work, including Town Forest, ongoing projects from last year and prioritized parcel scouting completed last year.
7. Riverfest participation
8. Invasive plants at the police station

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

The first order of business was review of minutes and action items from March and April meetings

* Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes, Brian Bettencourt seconded the motion, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote

Action items:

New:

1. Olin to notify the state of approved RDA for treatments in Town Forest
   1. done
2. Jonathan to inquire with Mass Wildlife contacts regarding treatment options on MBTA property
   1. Done- no response yet, will follow-up again
3. All: Review prioritized parcel list and begin planning treatment schedule at the next meeting
   1. see below
4. All: Send Brian material for a Tree of Heaven brochure
   1. reminder in meeting
5. Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
   1. move to next meeting

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

* Carmichael RDA is ongoing
* Charlotte met Nic Gualco Site at the rail trail to visit the site of Phragmites
* Charlotte Weigel: described the method of treatment to be utilized,
* Olin Lathrop: RDA approved

The third order of business was Discuss plan for restoration work for Campbell Well/Surrenden knotweed and updates for Wild and Scenic Council on any changes in grant work

* Charlotte Weigel: Grant amendment approved through June 2024. Concern that retreatment might damage seedlings. Propose to postpone plantings to fall of 2023 and spring of 2024
* Olin Lathrop: Last year we performed Glyphosphate treatments in the spring and the fall
* Charlotte Weigel: the areas we treated in 2022 were very successful
* Charlotte Weigel: We are going out in early June to do the counts in the plots and will regroup at our next meeting and decide on next steps
* Charlotte Weigel: The plots are mapped in EdMaps that can be viewed in ArcGIS

***The plots were viewed in the meeting***

* Olin moved to authorize the amendment of the Wild and Scenic grant
* The motion passed unanimously

The fourth order of business was Discuss most recent information from Mass Fish and Wildlife on approval process for work in Town Forest and how to proceed

* MESA form completed. Sent in with RDA and memorandum of understanding from the Town Forest Committee
* Will have to wait for approval to start treatments in the Town Forest [*post-meeting note: the MESA form was approved*]

The fifth order of business was Groton Farm landscape plan comments

* Charlotte Weigel: Provide Excel file indicating plants that we recommend replacing, provide with a letter
* Proposed to be a joint statement with sustainability commission

***Excel file displayed and discussed, Charlotte Weigel recorded the recommendations***

* Callery pear priority to remove as it is invasive.
* Suggested native alternatives e.g.: gray dogwood, highbush blueberry and buttonbush

***The letter was reviewed on the screen and edited contemporaneously***

* Olin Lathrop moved to send the letter as amended
* Brian Bettencourt seconded
* Motion passed with one abstention by Ron Strohsahl
* Charlotte Weigel: hearing is the third Tuesday of the Month

The sixth order of business was Plan for spring work, including Town Forest, ongoing projects from last year and prioritized parcel scouting completed last year.

* Will discuss the Gay property at the next meeting

List of active treatment sites:

1. Petapawag and Deerhaven - Emerald Ash Borer
2. Eliades - Phragmites
3. Shattuck - knotweed/swallow wort
4. Hayden rd - knotweed
5. Country club - knotweed
6. Town Forest - 2- 3 visits stiltgrass/barberry
7. Carmichael swamp- Phragmites
8. Priest -Phragmites
9. Rail - trail Phragmites
10. Campbell well site - knotweed/ other invasive plants (e.g., barberry, bittersweet and buckthorn

* Charlotte Weigel: Plan to treat Phragmites in fall - other treatments in the spring/summer
* **Action: Jonathan to send email to plan treatment at Groton Country Club**

The seventh order of business was Riverfest participation

* Committee participation in Riverfest put to vote, passed unanimously
* Charlotte Weigel: described last year’s event. Was very successful
* Date of Riverfest this year is June 11th

The eighth order of business was Invasive plants at the police station

* Charlotte Weigel: email from Garden Club. They have done some work at the police station and there is significant invasive species on the property
* **Action item to visit the site at the police station**

Other discussion:

* Anna Eliot had indicated that the Allysum was now blooming on her property
* At Surrenden there were other invasive plants on the site in addition to knotweed, we need a more comprehensive treatment plan
* **Action for Charlotte to schedule a site visit to Town Forest with Mass Wildlife**

Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn the meeting

Brian Bettencourt seconded.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.