**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**17Jul2023**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Adam Burnett

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from June 21st meeting
2. Consideration of recently approved Pepperell landscaping design standards
3. Confirm schedule for treatment of knotweed re-growth at Campbell Well/Surrenden and any actions needed for planned restoration work
4. Review recent work:

* Town Forest
* Campbell Well/Surrenden/Nod Rd - Committee work and UMass Lowell student work
* Groton Country Club

1. Plan for upcoming work - all ongoing projects
2. Update from Brian on Hoary Alyssum
3. Review signage to use for upcoming work
4. Update on Phragmites genetic testing

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

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

* The minutes were reviewed
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept.
  + Jonathan Basch seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous vote.

**New:**

* **Action item for Brian to visit the site of last year’s treatment at Carmichael swamp**
  + tabled to next meeting
* **Action for Ben Wolfe to go back to visit the site at Campbell well** 
  + Ben Wolfe emailed Charlotte Weigel with intention to go to the site - Ben was not present in the meeting to report
* **Action for Charlotte to send an email to coordinate July treatments of knotweed - Done**
* **Action for Jonathan to return to the Groton Country Club site and empty the invasive plants from the bags – Done**
* **Action for Charlotte Weigel to visit Eliades site and survey the Phragmites**
  + Charlotte Weigel: visited today (July 17th, 2023)- will need to go back. Saw 4 or 5 sprigs of Phragmites at the side closest to the cul-de-sac. Cattails are filling in from the left hand side as you face the stand. The regrowing springs are only in the Spring only treatment plot. Both the Fall only and Spring + Fall only have more growth of natives filling in, but Fall only has the greatest diversity and biomass of growth. Spring + Fall has jewelweed growing almost entirely.
* **Action: Adam to visit the Farmers and Mechanics site for treatment - foliar spray. Will email Nic Gualco and cc committee. Will obtain signs from Ron**
  + Adam Burnett: Did visit the site, bittersweet present. Verified everything we cut was now dead
  + Charlotte Weigel: propose to plan treatment for later in the summer- ~ August and prioritize Campbell well knotweed. Farmers and Mechanics was last treated on 8/28/21
* **Action: Adam to visit Nod Rd site to treat knotweed, Will email Nic and cc committee**
  + Adam Burnett: completed spot treatment on July 8th
* **All: Action to review wording for sign and respond back to Ann**
  + Reminder on this action
* **Action for Ann to determine the cost for the printing/laminating of the signs**
  + Ann Carpenter: did not have a chance to get the cost
  + Agree that an 8 x11 size is appropriate
* **Action for Brian Bettencourt to send an update to the committee on the hoary alyssum via email**
  + Will update to the committee at next opportunity

**Standing:**

* **Charlotte to schedule a site visit to Town Forest with Mass Wildlife**
  + Charlotte Weigel: ongoing conversation with Mass Wildlife via email. Tentatively sometime in August
* **All: Send Brian material for a Tree of Heaven brochure**
  + reminder to all
  + Tree of Heaven observed in front of GELD - **Charlotte Weigel to contact GELD and offer to treat**
* **Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier**
  + Adam Burnett: took training and put in the request

The second order of business was Consideration of recently approved Pepperell landscaping design standards

* Charlotte Weigel: Series of design standards and guidelines sent by Deb Fountain. Some things we may not want to take up. A few things we might want to suggest. Having an understanding of what current guidelines are for the town of Groton would be a place to start. Not easy to find.
* Olin Lathrop: would be good to talk to planning board
* Charlotte Weigel: Would be a good student project. Allison [Hamilton] indicated she had students who might be interested.
* Jonathan Basch: Would be good to partner with other committees e.g., Sustainability.
* Olin Lathrop: would be good to get input from the planning board. Have more say in plantings for wetlands and wetland borders
* Ann Carpenter: Would be good to specify when things are planting. Could be guidelines not regulations
* Olin Lathrop: What do we think of only native plants within 100 feet of wetland?
* Ron Strohsahl: What would this apply to - new property?
* Charlotte Weigel: would apply to new developments
* Olin Lathrop: Wetland protection act enables towns to establish protections within 100 feet of a wetland
* Ann Carpenter: Could be a suggestion that they actively try to remove invasive plants?
* Ron Strohsahl: As soon as the property is purchased, the invasive plants will move in
* Ann Carpenter- Volunteer to work with student to research the current requirements for plantings in Groton
* **Action item for Ann Carpenter to email Alison Hamilton to plan for student project**
* **Action for Olin Lathrop to bring the topic of town planting guidelines to the ConCom**
* Charlotte Weigel: There might be Groton students that would be interested in a project like this

The third order of business was Confirm schedule for treatment of knotweed re-growth at Campbell Well/Surrenden and any actions needed for planned restoration work

* Consider treatment this coming weekend. Adam to monitor weather and plan for treatment on Sunday (July 23rd).
* **Action for Adam to send email to confirm time for treatment of knotweed at Campbell well**

The fourth order of business was Review recent work:

* Town Forest
  + Jonathan/Ben and Charlotte pulled barberry. The stiltgrass was very small. Will reassess before August meeting
* Campbell Well/Surrenden/Nod Rd - Committee work and UMass Lowell student work
  + Alison would like to come to a meeting and communicate the class findings
* Groton Country Club
  + see action item above
* Baddacook field
  + Olin Lathrop to treat swallowort as performed annually

The fifth order of business was Plan for upcoming work - all ongoing projects

* On track - Campbell well first, Farmers and Mechanics, Stiltgrass at the Town Forest and then Phragmites at all locations

The sixth order of business was Update from Brian on Hoary Alyssum

* postponed to next meeting

The seventh order of business was Weed Warrior training info from SVT

* Tabled – (this order of business was a copy and paste error in the meeting template and was not a posted agenda topic)

The eighth order of business was Update on Phragmites genetic testing

* No update yet

Other Discussion:

* Other properties to monitor?
  + Torrey woods
* Charlotte Weigel: Would be good to get to the other areas of public land in the town
* Ron Strohsahl: Can I pull bittersweet in town land along Crosswinds?
* Olin Lathrop: Send an email to Nic [Gualco] if you plan to work
* Ron Strohsahl: Would be good to get community to pull invasive plants

Police station:

* Charlotte Weigel: need to measure distance to wetland before we can treat without an RDA
* **Action for Charlotte Weigel to update at the next meeting on treatment at the police station**

GrotonFest:

* Brian indicated the Garden club will hand out our brochures at GrotonFest

Adam Burnett Moved to adjourn.

Olin Lathrop Seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.