**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**18SEP2023**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett (remote)

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from Aug 21st meeting

2. Update on any progress on landscaping design standards

3. Review restoration plan at Campbell Well/Surrenden based on early September visit.

4. Review recent work:

* Farmers and Mechanics

5. Review site visit to Town Forest with Mass Fish and Wildlife

5. Plan for upcoming work - all ongoing projects

    Surrenden/Campbell Well/Nod Rd

* Carmichael (Phragmites)
* Eliades (Phragmites)

    Priest Family Conservation area (Phragmites)

6. Update on GDRMS science class visit

7. Review signage to use for upcoming work

8. Update on Phragmites genetic testing

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

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

* The minutes were reviewed
* Olin Lathrop moved to accept.
  + Brian Bettencourt seconded.
  + The motion to accept the minutes passed by roll call vote (Charlotte abstained)

Action Items:

**New:**

* Action for Adam to visit the GELD site and confirm the ID of the additional potential Ailanthus observed
  + pending
* Action to schedule the treatment at GELD, we will need to contact Tammi when we plan to treat. Olin Lathrop and Adam Burnett to coordinate on treatment plan
  + pending
  + Olin Lathrop: five main stems ~ 1 inch or more in diameter. Will use Glyphosate
  + Adam Burnett: Has concentrate already prepared
  + Charlotte Weigel: Will email Adam Burnett to schedule
* Action for Olin Lathrop to put town planting guidelines on the agenda for the next conservation summit
  + agenda planning is not until December/January- will table until then
* Action items for Brian on police station bittersweet-  possibly coordinate RDA with Olin Lathrop and definitely talk to president of Garden Club regarding this undertaking
  + Brian Bettencourt: Spoke with Garden club, not a priority at the moment
  + Saturday September 30th Brian will be at the Groton Fest with the Garden club, will be an opportunity to discuss then
  + Brian Bettencourt and Charlotte Weigel to coordinate on Saturday for exchange of brochures and other items
* Action for Jonathan to plan visit to Campbell site by mid-September -Done
  + See below
* Action for Olin Lathrop to look at Priest and survey Phragmites
  + visited a few weeks ago, very few stalks- right along the road. Wait until it is a little drier, not much to treat
* Brian Bettencourt to check Phragmites at Eliades
  + Olin Lathrop: visited - a few stalks, more than Priest

**Standing:**

* Brian to visit the site of last year’s treatment at Carmichael swamp
  + shared pictures from the site. Last year’s treatment was very effective. There are a few viable plants and one area that was not treated previously. The site is currently very wet. Will have to consider where it fits in the priority.
* Adam to visit the Farmers and Mechanics site for treatment - Done
* All: Action to review wording for sign and respond back to Ann - Done
* Ann to determine the cost for the printing/laminating of the signs
* Charlotte to schedule a site visit to Town Forest with Mass Wildlife - Done
* All: Send Brian material for a Tree of Heaven brochure
  + reminder
* Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier
  + Will follow-up again - completed all pre reqs

The second order of business was Update on any progress on landscaping design standards

* postponed to next meeting

The third order of business was Review restoration plan at Campbell Well/Surrenden based on early September visit.

* Ben Wolfe reviewed the plan with the committee, identified several plants to start by seed in the fall and Clethra and fern transplants in the spring
* Olin Lathrop: Is there any evidence that knotweed is allelopathic?
* Brian Bettencourt: Identified citation that indicates that knotweed is allelopathic (Kato-Noguchi H. Allelopathy of Knotweeds as Invasive Plants. *Plants*. 2022; 11(1):3., <https://www.mdpi.com/2223-7747/11/1/3>)
* Ben Wolfe: Will buy more seeds and seedlings in the spring ~ $300 for the seeds- could use some this year and some next year. Clethra is ~$8 a plant. Could transplant the deer tongue as well. - Grant was extended to June of 2024. Will purchase seeds in the fall, will purchase seedlings next spring
* Brian Bettencourt: Could use volunteers eg scouts to help spread the seeds

The fourth order of business was Review recent work

* Farmers and Mechanics
  + Treated bittersweet with Glyphosate foliar spray. Interspersed area.
  + Adam Burnett: revisited the site. Some bittersweet still looks viable. Will have to continue to monitor. Treatments very effective on the buckthorn
* Campbell Well/Surrenden/Nod Rd - Committee work and UMass Lowell student work
  + Olin Lathrop: Charlotte Weigel, Jonathan Basch and Olin Lathrop treated the Campbell well site with dilute Triclopyr. Only sporadic knotweed plants found
  + Charlotte Weigel: Noticeably less knotweed than when the site was visited two weeks earlier. Found one other spot of knotweed that had not been noted before along the southernmost access trail to the river. This site was treated as well

Other sites:

* Olin Lathrop: After Campbell well treatment went to Nod rd. There was some sporadic knotweed which was treated. Then went to Shattuck Homestead, found only two plants - treated these. Did not examine the field for swallow wort. Went to the end of Hayden rd. Nothing that looked healthy or vigorous. Spot treated. Bittersweet that had been treated previously with Glyphosate was all dead.

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

* Carmichael (Phragmites)
  + too wet currently
* Eliades (Phragmites)
* Priest Family Conservation area (Phragmites)
* Nashua rail trail - will have to check on the status of the rail trail at Broadmeadow- there is a section closed, Jonathan Basch to visit
  + Will propose Sunday (Sept 24th) for treatment of all sites - meet at 10 am at Broadmeadow
  + Olin to check his inventory of Glyphosate to make sure he has the right herbicide for treatment

The sixth order of business was Update on GDRMS science class visit

* Brian Bettencourt: Wrote to the teachers, Brian will definitely repeat. Will look for another partner, possibly Anne

The seventh order of business was Review signage to use for upcoming work

* postponed

The eighth order of business was Update on Phragmites genetic testing

* In progress- DNA extracted

Other discussion:

* Charlotte Weigel: A resident contacted the committee about treating poison ivy growing on trees along roads.
* Agree that it is not within the scope of the committee since it is a native plant. Important for migrating birds
* Ben Wolfe: Visited the Nashua River where there is one spot of knotweed on private property. Has not changed significantly - good news- seems well contained
* Charlotte Weigel: Met Dan Bove from Mass Wildlife at the Town Forest. Discussed the buckthorn. Lots of good recommendations. Ron Strohsahl took detailed notes of the discussion. Willing to work with us on a treatment plan.

Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn.

Ben Bettencourt seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.