**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**16Oct2023**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Ben Wolfe

Adam Burnett (remote)

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from Sept 18th meeting
2. Schedule restoration work at Campbell Well/Surrenden based on early September visit.
3. Review recent work:
	* GELD
	* Off of Rail Trail
	* Priest Family Conservation Area
	* Eliades
4. Update on GDRMS science class visit
5. Update on Phragmites genetic testing
6. Review signage to use for upcoming work
7. Update on any progress on landscaping design standards
8. Discuss web forum

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

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

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

**New:**

* Brian Bettencourt and Charlotte Weigel to coordinate for exchange of brochures and other items at Groton Fest -Done
* Ben to purchase additional seeds for the Grant work- see agenda topic below
* Identify additional presenter for GDRMS science class visit - Done

**Standing:**

* Action for Adam to visit the GELD site and confirm the ID of the additional potential Ailanthus observed - Done
* Action to schedule the treatment at GELD, we will need to contact Tammi Lemire when we plan to treat. Olin Lathrop and Adam Burnett to coordinate on treatment plan - Done
* Ann to determine the cost for the printing/laminating of the signs -pending
* All: Send Brian material for a Tree of Heaven brochure
	+ Ongoing - reminder on this action
* Adam Burnett to become a EDDmapS verifier- will resubmit the application

The second order of business was schedule restoration work at Campbell Well/Surrenden based on early September visit.

* Ben Wolfe emailed proposed list for purchases to the committee
* Ben Wolfe:
	+ Will rake to expose soil before seeding
	+ Proposed seeds: wood aster, bluestem, goldenrod and deer tongue grass
	+ Propose 4 lbs. of deer tongue grass and 0.5 lb. of each of the other seeds
	+ Can save some seeds to propagate indoors for spring planting
	+ Purchase would be tax free
	+ 8$ /stem for clethra
* Adam Burnett: Don’t see evidence that deer eat clethra
* Ben Wolfe: Used 5 lbs. of deer tongue last year
* Olin Lathrop: Move that we authorize Ben to purchase seeds for the grant work as he deems appropriate
* Jonathan Basch: Seconded the motion
* The motion passed by unanimous vote
* Charlotte Weigel: What is the lead time for purchase? When should we plan on scheduling the planting?
* Ben Wolfe: Let me purchase the seeds and then I can schedule the planting in November
* **Action item for Ben to order the seeds and then schedule the seeding**
* **Action for Ben to order the Clethra - plan for March planting**

The third order of business was Review recent work:

* Groton Electric Light Department (GELD)
	+ Adam Burnett:
		- Found the cluster of Ailanthus at the telephone pole. Saw sprouts (small) throughout the bed, but area is contained by the concrete border.
		- Used an exacto knife and a chisel to notch the stems and spray with 50% Glyphosate.
		- Did not treat some of the small sprouts to see if the treatment was effective through roots. Spotted a stand of knotweed to the left of the GELD building.
		- Also saw an Ailanthus on private property across the street. Consider reaching out to the property owner if they are interested in treating the Ailanthus
		- Also observed a large Ash tree that has almost succumbed to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on the GELD property
	+ Charlotte Weigel: We’ll monitor the other small Ailanthus plants at GELD. **Action for Charlotte to follow-up with GELD on the knotweed and the small Ailanthus plants remaining**
* Off of Rail Trail (Phragmites)
	+ Charlotte Weigel: Treatment went well- Phragmites had spread since last time it was visited. Certain areas where it was just Phragmites and some places interspersed with buttonbush
* Priest Family Conservation Area (Phragmites)
	+ Very few Phragmites to be found. A few very small reeds presumed to be Phragmites- treated as observed
* Eliades (Phragmites)
	+ Few Phragmites reeds ~ ½ dozen plants. Sprayed everything observed

The fourth order of business was Update on Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School (GDRMS) science class visit

* Ann Carpenter: Visit was today Oct 16th. 7th grade. Went quite well. Went outside on the GDRMS property. Saw Bittersweet and Multiflora rose. Good engagement with the students. All the 7th graders could identify at least one invasive plant
* The honeysuckles were harder to identify.
* Ron Strohsahl: is it an area that we could treat?
* Charlotte Weigel: It is too far gone for the committee to treat (given that this abuts a heavily managed space, it might not be the most ecologically valuable site)
* Ron Strohsahl: Is it worth considering working with the maintenance crew?
* Charlotte Weigel: They are already mowing pretty close to the wetland
* Ann Carpenter: students will be able to identify bittersweet up close and from a distance.

*Separate Note from Charlotte Weigel: Stiltgrass at Town Forest. Can someone visit the Town Forest by Saturday (October 21st) and pull the remaining Stiltgrass before the road race*? **Action for Jonathan Basch to schedule pulling of Stiltgrass at Town Forest**

The fifth order of business was Update on Phragmites genetic testing

* Ben Wolfe: Genetic testing confirmed that the Phragmites at the Carmichael swamp is definitely the invasive form. Additionally, it could be confirmed that the Phragmites was not a hybrid of invasive and native Phragmites
* Charlotte Weigel: Maybe we could treat from the most accessible side and see if the treatment extends through the roots
* Olin Lathrop: Time of year of treatment might be important. Fall treatment is more effective and has a greater spread across the stand of Phragmites
* Charlotte Weigel: Will have to evaluate the effort for treatment against the benefit. Will discuss for next year

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

* postponed to next meeting

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

* Ann Carpenter: will collect list of native plant sources as a first step
* Ann Carpenter: Will follow-up with Alison Hamilton again

The eighth order of business was Discuss web forum

* Olin Lathrop: Codidact is used for Q&A- Electrical engineering, Physics. Might be good to have a place to post common information on invasive species
* Ann Carpenter: Native plant trust has a Botany forum that might be a good place to share
* Ben Wolfe: Does iNaturalist have a forum?
* Charlotte Weigel: There is definitely a need. Would be good to link up the different invasive species groups in the area

Ben Wolfe Moved to adjourn.

 Ron Strohsahl Seconded.

 The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.