**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**26Feb2024**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Adam Burnett

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from Jan 22nd meeting
2. Discussion of seedling purchase for the Campbell well restoration
3. Review price estimates for signs to use for upcoming work
4. Consider making a poster or other community outreach on mile-a-minute vine and/or new brochure (if confirmed in Groton)
5. All other business

The Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

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

* The minutes were reviewed and edited contemporaneously.
* Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Bettencourt seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote
* Action Item Review:
  + **ACTION:** Charlotte will cross check EEA list with MIPAG to ensure both lists are included. DONE - lists are the same.
  + **ACTION:** Charlotte will send the new Pepperell standards to Lorayne Black. DONE - also sent Lorayne the reply from the 500 Main St letter showing that the developers agreed to include 70% natives and will remove Callery Pear and Lilyturf from their planting list.
  + **ACTION:** Olin will edit the draft annual report and send to town hall -DONE
  + **ACTION**: Ann is working on getting pricing for the sign.
* Ann Carpenter: $50 for setup and $45/ sign
* Olin Lathrop: Seems expensive, should be some other options
* Ann Carpenter: Can evaluate other options
* Ron Strohsahl: What about political signs? They must be cheap to produce
* Ann Carpenter: Can look into corrugated cardboard signs
* Ann Carpenter: Asked if our brochures are on the website?
* Brian Bettencourt: Yes, they are on the town website
  + **ACTION:** the group will follow up with Ken to take a look at it in the spring when it comes back (maybe mile-a-minute vine) -pending
* located in a new development on Martin’s pd rd - not yet confirmed
  + **ACTION:** Charlotte to visit the GELD site and survey the knotweed
  + **ACTION:** Charlotte to survey the Phragmites at the Casella site in the spring
  + **ACTION:** Ben to order the Clethra - plan for March planting- pending

The second order of business was Discussion of seedling purchase for the Campbell well restoration

* Recommendation for witch hazel, arrow wood, silky dogwood

The third order of business was Review price estimates for signs to use for upcoming work

* covered above

The fourth order of business was consider making a poster or other community outreach on mile-a-minute vine and/or new brochure (if confirmed in Groton)

* Brian Bettencourt: If it is confirmed we should definitely do a brochure and publicize heavily
* Olin Lathrop: Homeowner is motivated to treat
* Ron Strohsahl: Think it is an upland plant, somewhat distinctive in the winter.
* Olin Lathrop: Only in isolated pockets in Massachusetts
* Ron Strohsahl: Can use pre-emergent herbicide. Could treat next year if confirmed
* Brian Bettencourt: There is a biological control, developed at UConn. (weevil)
* Olin Lathrop: Can be effectively treated by water-based solutions of Triclopyr. Wait until late March

The fifth order of business was All other business

* Brian Bettencourt: Shared a flyer for volunteer invasive species control activity on Earth Day (Monday) with NRWA
* Action for Jonathan to follow-up with Charlotte on Invasive Species role on planning this activity
* Olin and Jonathan met with a group in Ridgefield Connecticut interested in starting a committee. Good exchange of information
* Olin was contacted by a group in Lancaster. They want a short talk on knotweed and Phragmites
* Good turnout for the committee at the Groton conservation forum.

Brian Bettencourt moved to adjourn.

* Ann Carpenter seconded.
* The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.