**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**18MAR2024**

Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Olin Lathrop

Ron Strohsahl

Adam Burnett

Ann Carpenter

Ben Wolfe

 Agenda:

1. Review of minutes and action items from Feb 26th meeting
2. Clarification on Earth Day Invasives Pull at Town Forest
3. Next steps for seedling growing at home
4. Purchases for restoration at Surrenden
5. All other business

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

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

* Brian Bettencourt moved to approve the minutes as amended
* Ben Wolfe seconded the motion
* The motion passed with one abstention by Charlotte Weigel who did not attend the March meeting
* Action Items:

Standing:

**ACTION**: Ann to work on getting pricing for the sign – continuing

* + Ann Carpenter: $25 each for corrugated plastic. Cheap posterboard is still $25 at Staples. Cheapest option was ~ $19. Brought example signs to share.
	+ Charlotte Weigel: Maybe purchase 4 signs in total
	+ Olin Lathrop: Can get 12 x 12 aluminum sign for $10
	+ Brian Bettencourt: I have a connection for a laser engraving.
	+ Adam Burnett: Do we need multiple colors?
	+ Ann Carpenter: Model that my daughter prepared was three colors
	+ Ann Carpenter: Purpose of the sign is to communicate that herbicides were used and why it is being treated.

**ACTION:** the group will follow up with Ken (town homeowner) in the spring when the putative mile-minute- vine comes back – action pending to later in the spring season when leaves can be observed

**ACTION: Charlotte to visit the GELD site and survey the knotweed- addressed (see below)**

* + Olin Lathrop: GELD filed with the Conservation Committee (ConCom) for certificate of compliance. Visited the site- definitely knotweed on the property. They were supposed to have invasive plants surveyed periodically. Will update the committee on the status of the certificate of compliance.
	+ Adam Burnett: We may be able to treat the knotweed in exchange for reimbursement for licenses
	+ Charlotte Weigel: Is there a budget for Concom that we could use?
	+ Olin Lathrop: There is a budget but invasive committee is not in scope.

**ACTION:** Charlotte to survey the Phragmites at the Casella site in the spring- pending

* + Charlotte Weigel: Will use a canoe to access the Phragmites stands. Will map to understand what we can treat. Will take GPS coordinates
	+ Olin Lathrop: Most of the Phragmites is clearly in the Reedy meadow conservation area

**ACTION:**  Ben to order the Clethra - plan for March planting- pending

* + Ben Wolfe: Received a quote for 25 clethra and 25 witch hazel. Not sure if there is silky dogwood growing along the Nashua River
	+ Charlotte Weigel: Confirmed there is silky dogwood growing in this area
	+ Ben Wolfe: Do we need more chemicals or any other items to complete the work?
	+ Olin Lathrop: We are set with the existing supplies
	+ Ben Wolfe: Will put order in for Clethra, witch hazel and silky dogwood
	+ Brian Bettencourt: Have a trailer and can help transport

New:

**ACTION:** for Jonathan to follow-up with Charlotte on Invasive Species role on planning NRWA volunteer activity on Earth Day - Done

The second order of business was Clarification on Earth Day Invasives Pull at Town Forest

* Charlotte Weigel: Flyer was a surprise. It was specifically for Bemus employees not for wider distribution. The plan is for Bemus employees to come in the morning to the Town Forest and pull invasive plants. High school students are coming in the afternoon - (no volunteers yet from the High School). Followed up with Jessica, will try to connect with Brian for boy scout volunteers.
* Jonathan Basch: If it is after 5, more committee members could participate.
* Charlotte Weigel: Want to do another site walk before the event. Will go back to the barberry area we worked in previously. They will bring the tools. There is also glossy buckthorn
* Ben Wolfe: Do they need to treat the buckthorn?
* Charlotte Weigel: The barberry area is a little sensitive to disruption, if there are a lot of volunteers, I want to have other areas for treatment
* **Action** for Charlotte to schedule a site walk at the town forest for April 21st. Will focus on the Barberry during the site walk
* Ben Wolfe: Can tie some flagging tape the day before
* Olin Lathrop: They can feel they can irradicate something

The third order of business was Next steps for seedling growing at home

* ~ 1 week left of (CS) Cold Stratification. Sprinkle on the surface of seed starting mix
* Brian Bettencourt: Can use egg cartons, with wet dirt,
* Ben Wolfe: can use seed flats. Need light to germinate. Place under a window - under grow lights. Watch out for mold- use a fan if you see mold

The fourth order of business was Purchases for restoration at Surrenden

* see above
* Ben Wolfe: Is there a limit for the town will reimburse for purchases?
* Olin Lathrop: Not that I am aware of

The fifth order of business was All other business

* Charlotte Weigel: Chief McCurdy will be at our meeting in April
* Charlotte Weigel: There is another town parcel on the west side of 119 along the Nashua River. There is treatment scheduled on Monday April 29th. Asked if the committee would be able to meet them (Charlotte Steeves). Asked for advice on disposal and treatment. Plan on burning
* Olin Lathrop: Contacted by group in Lancaster that requested a talk on Phragmites and … Agreed
* Olin Lathrop: Also question if we want to participate again in Riverfest.
* Ron Strohsahl: It is June 9th
* Adam Burnett: Moved that we participate in Riverfest.
* Brian Bettencourt: Seconded
* The motion passed unanimously
* **Action for Charlotte to email Pete Carson to indicate the committee would like a table at Riverfest**
* Ann Carpenter: Round-up for residential use no longer contains Glyphosphate

Charlotte Weigel Moved to adjourn.

Brian Bettencourt Seconded

 The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.