**Groton Invasive Species Committee Meeting Minutes**

**19August2024**

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Jonathan Basch

Ron Strohsahl

Adam Burnett

Ben Wolfe

Ann Carpenter

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from July meeting
2. Review recent work: Town Forest, GELD and St. Regis
3. Schedule next treatments - next up: ??
4. Review articles for Groton Herald if ready to review
5. Review activities of Committee for the purposes of dividing responsibilities
6. Vote on new Chair
7. All other business

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

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

* Edits submitted by Olin Lathrop via email were accepted updated prior to the meeting
* Charlotte Weigel moved to approve the minutes as amended
* Ben Wolfe seconded the motion
* The motion passed by unanimous vote

Action items:

Standing:

* Action to schedule EAB treatment at Deerhaven -pending
* Olin to write story for the Groton Herald based on the grant -drafted and submitted

New:

* Charlotte Weigel to email to schedule pull of Stilt grass at Town Forest - done
* Charlotte Weigel to email fish and wildlife for knotweed treatment at town Forest- done
  + Site is opposite the Campbell well
* Action to track all of the knotweed sightings in the Town Forest - Charlotte Weigel has a site entered in EDmaps. Jonathan has some GPS coordinates- will send to Ron
* Jonathan to send email to schedule the treatments for the 28th - Done
* Action to survey rail trail, Eliades, Priest and Casella for Phragmites - Done
  + Charlotte Weigel surveyed Eliades and Priest and Casella, Jonathan surveyed the rail trail

The second order of business was Review recent work

* Town Forest
  + Charlotte Weigel and Ron Strohsahl visited the Town Forest and pulled stilt grass. Charlotte Weigel: Looks better than last year. The bag is still there. Will have to go back to retrieve it. Lots of little stilt grass. Would be good to go back later in the season before the road race (October 13th)
* GELD
  + Adam Burnett, Olin Lathrop, Jonathan Basch, and Anne Carpenter treated the knotweed by cut and drip with Glyphosate (50% mix). Jonathan Basch visited this past weekend (18Aug2024), treatment looks very effective
  + GELD will provide a donation to the committee
  + A sign was posted to indicate the site was treated by the invasive species committee
* St Regis
  + Charlotte Weigel, Olin Lathrop and Jonathan Basch treated the large bittersweet stems. Charlotte Weigel had flagged the bittersweet vines during a previous visit

The third order of business was Schedule next treatments - next up?

* Reviewed the list of ongoing treatment locations
  + Action for Ben to visit the Surrenden site to survey knotweed.
  + Action for Ben to visit the Phragmites site on the rail trail and determine the GPS location
  + Action to discuss the EAB treatment at Deerhaven next meeting
  + Action to schedule the Phragmites treatment at the next meeting

The fourth order of business was Review articles for Groton Herald if ready to review

* The article has been submitted

The fifth order of business was Review activities of Committee for the purposes of dividing responsibilities

* The following list of standing committee activities was reviewed. The corresponding volunteer for each activity is recorded below:

1. Set agenda and schedule meetings with the Town, request input and communicate final agenda to the committee- Charlotte
2. Take meeting minutes, provide to group for review and submit approved minutes to Town Hall - Ron
3. Update treatment spreadsheet - Ron
4. Follow up with 7th grade middle school teachers to organize Invasives Day- Ann
5. Organize treatment trips- Adam Burnett- on the trails committee they assign stewards for different
6. Keep invasives information sheets (brochures) and get them to events where needed - Jonathan
7. Follow up on inquiries from the public received through town email- Ben
   1. Action for Charlotte Weigel to ask for Ben and Jonathan to added to the list
8. Special projects:
   1. NRWA collaboration - Ann
   2. Garden Club requests - Ben
   3. Riverfest participation - Adam
9. Signing receipts for reimbursement- discuss the need for a Treasurer at a future meeting

The sixth order of business was vote on new chair

* Charlotte Weigel moved for Jonathan Basch to be the new chair
* Ron Strohsahl seconded
* The motion passed with one abstention (Jonathan Basch)

The seventh order of business was all other business

* Ron Strohsahl: While volunteering for work with the NRWA at a site in Devens next to the water treatment plant spotted a huge stand of knotweed on a steep bank next to the Nashua River. Appears to be on Federal land. Reached out to a contact (Stephanie Coch). Indicated they would be willing to send interns to cut it, but they were not in a position to be able to treat with herbicide – The location is at filterbed rd. West
* **Action: Ron to compose an email to describe the issue to our contact in Shirley (Ron can cc: the Shirley Conservation Committee**
* **Action for Ron to visit the site again**
* Charlotte Weigel: Resident inquiry - has a lot of bittersweet on their property. Has not been making much headway. Charlotte Weigel visited the property. Has a naturalized meadow with lots of bittersweet in the field
  + Adam Burnett: Bittersweet has interconnected roots.
  + Charlotte Weigel: The homeowner says the Glyphosate has not been very effective for foliar spray.
  + Adam Burnett: Recommend treatment with Triclopyr and will not kill the grass.
  + Ron Strohsahl: Recommend treatment later in the year.
* Reviewed the email from the Town Master plan on Invasive Species
  + **Action for Jonathan to forward to the committee for review and discuss at the next meeting. Action for Adam Burnett to coordinate feedback.**
* Discussed the next brochure – suggestion for Porcelain berry
* Charlotte Weigel: The sustainability committee is establishing a website that we could post information on and link to our brochures

Ben Wolfe Moved to adjourn.

* Charlotte Weigel Seconded.
* The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.