| Committee Members Present: | Committee Members Not Present: |
| --- | --- |
| Charlotte Weigel | Brian Bettencourt |
| Jonathan Basch | Richard Hewitt |
| Olin Lathrop |  |
| Adam Burnett |  |
| Ron Strohsahl |  |
| Ann Carpenter |  |
| Ben Wolfe |  |
|  |  |

**Agenda:**

1. Review minutes and action items from the August meeting
2. Review recent work
3. Schedule next treatments - next up: ??
4. Review edited text from Master Plan
5. Groton School volunteer day opportunity
6. All other business

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

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the August meeting
   1. Minutes:
      1. Minutes amended for accuracy
         1. Ben Wolfe moved to approve the minutes as amended
         2. Ann Carpenter seconded the motion
         3. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote
   2. Action Items:
      1. Assigned Previously:
         1. Jonathan to send knotweed GPS coordinates to Ron - **Completed**
         2. Retrieve the bag filled with Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) from Groton Town Forest before the Groton Road Race (October 13) - *Not Completed*

**ACTION ITEM: ANN CARPENTER TO RETRIEVE BAG BEFORE OCTOBER 13**

* + - 1. Action for Ben to visit the Surrenden site to survey knotweed - **Completed**
      2. Action for Ben to visit the *Phragmites* site on the rail trail and determine the GPS location - **Completed**
      3. Action to discuss the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) treatment at Deerhaven next meeting - **Completed**
      4. Action to schedule the *Phragmites* treatment at the next meeting - **Completed**
      5. Action: Ron to compose an email to describe the knotweed issue to Sherry Anders in Shirley (Ron can cc the Shirley Conservation Commission) - **Completed**
      6. Action for Ron to visit the J. knotweed site in Ayer again - **Completed**
      7. Action for Jonathan to forward the master plan statement on Invasive Species to the committee for review and discuss at the next meeting. - **Completed**
      8. Action for Adam Burnett to coordinate feedback on the Master plan - **Completed**
    1. Standing Action Items:

1. The second order of business was: Review recent work
   1. Herbicide Treatments on 9/08/24 & 9/23/24
      1. Olin Lathrop: emailed group with details on 9/9/24 from work completed on 9/8/24
         1. Applied diluted triclopyr for knotweed treatments at:
            1. Nod Rd (Petapawag) - responded well to previous treatments
            2. Country Club - sprayed from top of hill what was reachable
      2. Adam Burnett: Applied stem injections with 50% RoundUp ProMax to uncut or untreated plants, no foliar spray treatment at:
         1. Groton Electric and Light Department
      3. Foliar application completed at Surrenden Farms/Campbell Well on a variety of invasives
      4. Jonathan Basch observed scattered invasives throughout all areas, but noticeable improvement after our treatments
      5. Olin Lathrop observations at:
         1. Eliades: cattails sprouting where previous *Phragmites* were growing
         2. Priest: very little *Phragmites* remain after treatments
         3. Rail Trail: second year of treatments and *Phragmites* affected by previous treatments
            1. Ben Wolfe: did not see additional growth behind treated areas
2. The third order of business was: schedule next treatment areas
   1. Deerhaven
      1. Olin Lathrop: treatments last multiple years, we can try next spring after leaf out
      2. Jonathan Basch: add to early treatments for next year
   2. Carmichael Swamp
      1. requires planning because high water makes access difficult
      2. Charlotte Weigel: Brian Bettencourt recently visited and suggested we can treat areas that are accessible
      3. Olin Lathrop: requires a lot of effort and probably cannot be completed in 2024 as leaves are beginning to fall

**ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to contact Brian Bettencourt regarding feasibility of Carmichael *Phragmites* Treatment**

* 1. Nipmunk Meadows (black swallowwort, *Cynanchum louiseae*)
     1. Olin Lathrop: we have completed spraying around edges to prevent spread, and completed J. knotweed treatments there. Relying on Conservation Agent/Forestry to complete remaining work
  2. Other Scheduling/Treatment Discussion
     1. Adam Burnett: will need to order more Garlon 4 Ultra

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to determine quantity and cost of Garlon 4 Ultra**

* + 1. Olin Lathrop: Town Hall has approved account for donations, $500 balance available from GELD donation
    2. Jonathan Basch: priority for reimbursement: money fronted for procurement of signs and pesticide spraying licenses
       1. Ann Carpenter: sign receipts: $9.55 (posts) + $154.00 (signs) = $163.55
    3. Olin Lathrop: makes motion to approve reimbursement of receipts
       1. Ben Wolfe seconded
       2. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote
    4. Olin Lathrop: makes motion to allow Jonathan Basch to sign receipts for reimbursement for signs & posts
       1. Ben Wolfe second
       2. approved by unanimous roll call vote

1. The fourth order of business was: Review edited text from Master Plan
   1. Adam Burnett: reviewed text, should consider adding *Phragmites* and removing less treatable species (e.g. brown tail moth, European buckthorn, etc.)
   2. Jonathan Basch: include species we’re currently treating in town and species we’re currently monitoring

**ACTION ITEM: Adam Burnett & Jonathan Basch to review and propose revisions for inclusion in Master Plan**

* 1. Charlotte Weigel: Committee is listed in Draft Implementation Plan of the Master Plan, but Committee needs to revise text and discuss
     1. Jonathan Basch: need a meeting to finalize edits and revisions

1. The fifth order of business was: Groton School volunteer day opportunity
   1. Charlotte Weigel: The Groton School has school-wide volunteer opportunities on October 15 and have asked if our Committee has anything students can assist with
   2. Olin Lathrop: Stewardship Committee identified patch of J. barberry in West Groton, Lawrence Park/Hemlock Grove Conservation Area
      1. Jonathan Basch: Olin Lathrop can you forward coordinates to David Black & identify areas for students?
      2. Olin Lathrop: Need to notify Conservation Commission first, because they own the property
      3. Charlotte Weigel: Please include Lizzy Phan on email to David Black to let them know we have something available for students to assist with

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to organize potential opportunities for Groton School volunteer day**

**1) Request Conservation Commission approval for activity on Conservation-owned land**

**2) Email Lizzy Phan and David Black location data regarding treatable J. barberry**

**population**

1. The sixth order of business was: all other business
   1. Olin Lathrop: will be attending conference run by University of Maine at Orono regarding emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)
      1. specifically regarding black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)
   2. Ann Carpenter: Groton Middle School event on October 18th
      1. discuss invasive problem and compare invasive to native plants
      2. in contact with teachers and confirming timing
   3. Ann Carpenter wrote article for Groton Herald, recommending homeowner treatment methods and possible native plantings
   4. Ann Carpenter: Three signs have been placed near our treatment areas
      1. proposes sign near boat launch be two-sided so it is observable from water
   5. Charlotte Weigel: New Sustainability Committee website www.sustainablegroton.org
      1. includes action to remove invasive species & links to Invasive Species Committee’s brochures
      2. Please review and provide feedback to update the website
   6. Jonathan Basch: is the Groton Invasive Committee email account functional?
      1. Olin Lathrop would like to be added as an administrator to email account, too

**ACTION ITEM: Charlotte Weigel to email IT Department to add Olin Lathrop to Invasive Species email account**

* 1. Ron Strohsahl: contacted Stephanie Koch at USFWS to notify them of expanse of J. knotweed on their property, near Filter Bed Road East/West, but treatment is outside of scope of our Committee
     1. Jonathan Basch: important to continue influencing treatments upstream of our town

1. Meeting Adjournment
   1. Olin Lathrop Moved to adjourn
   2. Ben Wolfe Seconded
   3. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by roll call vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.