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

**Agenda:**

1. Review minutes and action items from September meeting
2. Review recent work: GDRMS Invasives day, etc.
3. Discuss Japanese barberry at West Groton property mentioned by Stewardship Committee
4. Review edited text from Master Plan
5. All other business

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

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the September meeting
   1. Minutes:
      1. Minutes amended for accuracy
         1. Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended
         2. Adam Burnett seconded the motion
         3. The motion passed by roll call vote
            1. Abstains: Brian Bettencourt, Richard Hewitt, Charlotte Weigel
   2. Action Items:
      1. Assigned Previously:
         1. Ann Carpenter to retrieve Japanese stiltgrass bag from Groton Town Forest before October 13 - ***not completed***
         2. Jonathan Basch to contact Brian Bettencourt regarding feasibility of Carmichael *Phragmites* Treatment in Fall - **Completed**
         3. Olin Lathrop to determine quantity and cost of Garlon 4 Ultra herbicide - **Completed**
            1. $225/2.5 gallon jug

not enough money in Committee’s account to buy more herbicide and pay back Ann Carpenter for signs/posts, and Adam Burnett’s pesticide spraying license

Olin Lathrop thinks Groton Conservation Commission may be willing to pay for a portion of herbicide because we are treating Conservation-owned land

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to ask Conservation Commission for $100 to cover additional costs of herbicide for invasive treatment on Conservation-owned lands**

* + - 1. Adam Burnett & Jonathan Basch to review and propose revisions for inclusion in Master Plan - **Completed**
      2. Olin Lathrop to organize potential assistance with Groton School volunteer day: - **Completed**
         1. Groton School declined
      3. Charlotte Weigel to email IT Department to add Olin Lathrop to Invasive Species email account - ***not completed***
    1. Standing Action Items:

1. The second order of business was: Review recent work
   1. GDRMS Invasives Day
      1. Ron Strohsahl and Ann Carpenter presented to 7th and 8th graders at Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School regarding identifying invasive species easily found in MA and in nearby towns, and why they are important to remove
      2. Ron Strohsahl: overall very successful day. Children and teachers were excited to have us visit. Divided into two classrooms and did a short presentation inside before heading outside to show kids the invasive plants growing around campus
         1. Teachers started an Invasive Species learning unit the week of our visit, and kids identified species on USDA database and wrote short report about their chosen species prior to our presentation
         2. Children asked a lot questions of regarding identification and anecdotes of possible invasives they’ve seen around their homes and throughout Town
      3. Ann Carpenter: worksheets need to be updated to reflect species easily found on campus
         1. Already began on updates which include:
            1. changing species on worksheet to plants that are easier to identify and more likely to be seen on campus
            2. adding identification tips adjacent to photos
         2. Teachers should preempt our visit with class/presentation regarding identifying the species on the worksheet because not enough time to teach all characteristics and go outside in a single period
2. The third order of business was: Discuss Japanese barberry at West Groton property mentioned by Stewardship Committee
   * 1. Charlotte Weigel told by Anna Elliot to discuss with Olin Lathrop regarding where new J. barberry population is located
     2. Olin Lathrop: we discussed this briefly at last meeting. The stand is located within Hemlock Grove/Lawrence Park off of Integrity Way in West Groton.
        1. There are a few scattered bushes; smaller than Town Forest population
        2. Will take a couple hours with few people to remove
        3. Best time is to remove in spring, when ground is moist and plants easily identifiable
     3. Jonathan Basch: add Hemlock Grove/Lawrence Park to list of spring treatment sites
3. The fourth order of business was: Review edited text from Master Plan
   1. Jonathan Basch presents self-edited version of text
      1. Plan to vote on it today
   2. Jonathan Basch edits text of Master Plan with assistance of all Committee members present
      1. Discussion regarding:
         1. Town should incorporate Plan in roadside and utility maintenance plans
         2. Town should continue to educate and inform property owners regarding the invasive problem
      2. Olin Lathrop makes motion to accept edits to Master Plan as amended
         1. Richard Hewitt seconds motion
         2. Motion approved with roll call vote
            1. Charlotte Weigel abstains
   3. Edit Master Plan Implementation document
      1. Committee reviews and makes proposed edits to document
4. The fifth order of business was: Debrief from Ash conference in Maine
   1. Olin Lathrop attended two day conference at University of Maine
      1. conference was focused on effects of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) trees, but is applicable to all ash trees
      2. Topics involved “lingering ash”
         1. Some individual ash trees have more resistance to emerald ash borer
         2. Individuals with resistance are located and selectively bred and planted
            1. in 3rd generation of breeding program
         3. Will discuss with presenter from NY if he would be willing to present in Groton
      3. Good takeaway: a lot of people are collectively working to remedy emerald ash borer problem
5. The sixth order of business was: all other business
   1. Brian Bettencourt: completed experiment on my own property, on a eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) tree infested with wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)
      1. Treatment included spraying trunk of tree with insecticide “Safari 20SG”
         1. insecticide is sucked in through bark and transferred through to leaves/stems where wooly adelgid is feeding on tree’s nutrients
      2. began treatment 1 month ago, but still have wooly adelgid on branches
         1. Olin Lathrop suggests checking again next spring/summer when the tree is actively transporting nutrients/water to leaves
      3. Charlotte Weigel: any nearby untreated trees that can be used for a control?
         1. Brian Bettencourt: yes, nearby but not on property
      4. Olin Lathrop: at University of Maine conference I talked to wooly adelgid expert, who says they have evidence of trees adapting to wooly adelgid, and are surviving infestations, and regrowth is being observed
         1. Brian Bettencourt: evolution can happen quickly if selection pressure is strong enough
   2. Ron Strohsahl: Stephanie Koch at USFWS discussed removing J. knotweed population in Ayer/Shirley/Devens along Nashua River with Jessica Veysey Powell from Nashua River Watershed Association
      1. Jonathan Basch: suggest they continue treatment beyond river bank, throughout the width of the floodplain, to prevent additional spread during flooding events
6. Meeting Adjournment
   1. Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn
   2. Ann Carpenter seconded
   3. The motion to adjourn approved by roll call vote
      1. Brian Bettencourt abstains

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Ann Carpenter to retrieve J. stiltgrass bag from Groton Town Forest
2. Charlotte Weigel to email IT Department to add Olin Lathrop to Invasive Species email account
3. Olin Lathrop to ask Conservation Commission for $100 to cover additional costs of herbicide for invasive treatment on Conservation-owned lands