

Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
27 January 2025
Meeting Minutes



Town of
Groton
Massachusetts

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel
Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Ron Strohsahl
Ann Carpenter
Brian Bettencourt
Ben Wolfe

Committee Members Not Present:

Adam Burnett
Richard Hewitt

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from December meeting
 2. Review draft annual report
 3. Plans for 2025 (e.g., Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Removal Event)
 4. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the December meeting
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Brian Bettencourt seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed by voice vote
 - a. Abstain: Charlotte Weigel
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. Jonathan Basch will check email accounts listed on the account update to ensure accuracy. Some members did not receive an account update. - **not completed, will follow up with IT**
 2. Olin Lathrop to purchase jug of Garlon 4 Ultra for Committee use, pending fund transfer from Conservation Commission - **not completed, but money is available**
 3. Ron Strohsahl to add GPS locations to Committee's ArcGIS map - **completed**
 4. Olin Lathrop to relay Invasive Species Committee discussion to Anna Eliot; Committee is willing to treat the Fitch-Best Woods but will need assistance from neighborhood - **completed**
 5. Jonathan Basch to scope out locations for a possible garlic mustard pull - **completed**
 6. Ann Carpenter to write article for Groton Herald about garlic mustard, to be published in the spring - **completed, plan to publish 3-4 weeks before event**

ACTION ITEM: All members to review Ann's article regarding invasive species for the Groton Herald

7. Brian Bettencourt to create brochure for Japanese stiltgrass - **not completed**

ACTION ITEM: All members email small excerpts of relevant material to Brian; including, how to ID, how to remove, treatment methods, etc.

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8. Olin Lathrop to reach out to MDAR about efforts to identify “lingering ash” throughout Massachusetts - ***not completed - email sent to E. Barnes, MDAR Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, no response; will continue to coordinate***
 - ii. Standing Action Items:
 2. The second order of business was: Review draft annual report
 - a. Annual report was edited with input and edits from Committee members
 - i. Olin Lathrop moved to approve annual report as edited
 - ii. Ann Carpenter seconded the motion
 - iii. Motion is approved by unanimous voice vote
 3. The third order of business was: Discuss plans for 2025
 - a. Garlic Mustard Pull Event
 - i. Williams Barn was visited to determine if it would be a suitable location to hold the event
 1. Jonathan Basch observed garlic mustard around the main field, and some along trail
 - a. There are multiple other species of invasives that can be removed, too
 - b. Committee may consider identifying and flagging invasives prior to event, for volunteers to remove
 2. Olin Lathrop: contact Williams Barn Committee to schedule use of the area for invasive removal event
- ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to contact Williams Barn Committee for possible use of site for event**
- ii. Cow Pond fields & Prescott Fields also considered as possible options
 1. There may be competition for parking with other activities (i.e. youth sports) during a weekend
 - iii. Incorporate invasive species removal with promotion of native plants. Committee will provide supervised instruction regarding identification, removal methods and treatments
 - iv. Virginia Wood, a Groton citizen and local artist, has offered to donate handmade ceramic mugs as prize for any possible competition regarding invasive species removal
 - v. Jonathan Basch: Time frame for event will be in mid-April
 1. Olin Lathrop: may be too early for growth, we should prioritize Japanese barberry removal in Town Forest and Lawrence Grove/Hemlock Woods first
 2. May consider event in April/May; will depend on availability and may be determined by Williams Barn Committee
 - vi. Ann Carpenter: The Prescott Center is hosting upcoming presentations on invasive and native plants and have offered to advertise for the Invasive Species Committee’s Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Species Removal event
 1. They could also possibly include in their next newsletter, which is distributed to residents outside Groton, which could increase participation
 2. Jonathan Basch: We can do an additional Invasive Removal Event at the Prescott Center, too, along the rear parking area, if there is interest
 3. Committee can provide existing brochures to hand out during presentations
4. The fourth order of business was: all other business

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- a. Reminder to complete ethics training
- b. Interested parties from Ayer, Shirley, Groton, Devens and MassWildlife have attempted to coordinate a virtual meeting regarding the removal of Japanese knotweed along the Nashua River in Ayer/Shirley that was previously identified
 - i. Question from MassWildlife whether Japanese knotweed gives a color infrared signature that could be observed by drone and/or aerial imagery to determine population extent
- c. The meeting planned for the 3rd Monday in February will fall on President's Day (2025)
 - i. The next meeting will therefore be February 24, 2025

5. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn
- b. Ben Wolfe seconded
- c. The motion to adjourn approved by unanimous vote

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:

1. **Jonathan Basch will check email accounts listed on the Committee's bank account to ensure accuracy and determine when the updates are sent. No members received a January update.**
2. **Olin Lathrop to purchase jug of Garlon 4 Ultra for Committee use prior to field season**
3. **All members to review Ann's article regarding invasive species**
4. **Brian Bettencourt to create Committee brochure for identifying/removing Japanese stiltgrass**
5. **All members email small excerpts of relevant material to Brian; including, how to ID, how to remove, treatment methods, etc.**
6. **Olin Lathrop to reach out to MDAR about efforts to identify "lingering ash" throughout Massachusetts**
7. **Jonathan Basch to contact Williams Barn Committee for possible use of site for Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Species Removal event**