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

1. Review minutes and action items from March meeting
2. Bittersweet in Fitch-Best Woods
3. Plans for 2025 (eg Garlic Mustard Pull on May 10th) and schedule for upcoming treatments
4. Lingering Ash Lecture
5. Invasive Management Workshop May 16th
6. Membership/new members
7. 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 March meeting
   1. Minutes:
      1. Minutes amended for accuracy
         1. Olin Lathrop makes motion to approve minutes as amended
         2. Ron Strohsahl seconds motion
         3. Motion approved by unanimous vote
   2. Action Items:
      1. Assigned Previously:
         1. Olin Lathrop continue to coordinate with MDAR about efforts to identify “lingering ash” throughout Massachusetts - **ongoing**
         2. Jonathan Basch to return to Williams Barn Committee for approval to use parcel for Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Species Removal event - **completed**;
            1. **Williams Barn Committee approved motion to allow use on May 10, 2025**
            2. **Discussion re: porta john for use by attendees and costs**
            3. **Garlic mustard is growing and accessible**
            4. **Brian Bettencourt requested additional garlic mustard be collected for making pesto**
         3. Ron Strohsahl to invite Marisa Browning-Kamins to attend Invasive Species Committee to explain role of the coordinator position and identify ways we can assist - **ongoing;** **wait until NRWA meeting is conducted to see if there is additional interest from Committee**
         4. Jonathan Basch to begin coordinating treatment of Japanese barberry - **completed; Jonathan Basch performed 2 hours of Japanese barberry removal at Groton Town Forest**
            1. **followed up on regrowth and missed specimens from previous treatments**
         5. Charlotte Weigel to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area and Torrey Woods - **not completed**
2. The second order of business was: Bittersweet in Fitch-Best Woods
   1. Olin Lathrop: Anna Eliot wants to coordinate Asiatic bittersweet removal event with neighbors
      1. tentative for May 17

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to coordinate with Anna Eliot for bittersweet removal treatment with local neighborhood**

* 1. Adam Burnett: could follow up with spray bottle of herbicide for direct treatment after cutting if stems are too thick to pull

1. The third order of business was: Plans for 2025 (e.g. Garlic Mustard Pull on May 10th) and schedule for upcoming treatments
   1. Garden Club Plant Sale the same morning as Garlic Mustard Pull Event, which could boost turnout. Also was advertised in Groton Herald
      1. Committee will supply a table, brochures, examples of invasives, and Brian Bettencourt will provide pesto samples
         1. Jonathan Basch has table, bags, and is planning to coordinate between 1-3pm
         2. Olin Lathrop will take photos to document efforts
   2. Lawrence Park/Hemlock Grove - Olin Lathrop is coordinating for morning of Saturday April 26
      1. tentatively at 10am, meet at end of Integrity Way
      2. Bring your own shovels, clippers, work gloves
   3. Tentative Japanese barberry removal at Torrey Woods (pending Charlotte Weigel location) May 3-4, 2025

**ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to send email to coordinate Japanese barberry removal dates and times**

1. The fourth order of business was: Lingering Ash Lecture
   1. Shibley Hall is booked, considering Senior Center and Legion Hall for presentation
   2. Wednesday or Thursday evening
      1. Waiting until after leaf out so attendees can identify ash by themselves afterwards
      2. Awaiting DCR speaker availability before choosing venue
2. The fifth order of business was: Invasive Management Workshop May 16th
   1. Olin Lathrop: makes motion to appoint Ron Strohsahl to represent the Invasive Species Committee
      1. Jonathan seconds motion
      2. Motion approved by unanimous vote

**ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to email Nashua River Watershed Association and copy Jonathan Basch notifying them of attendance**

1. The sixth order of business was: Membership/new members
   1. Potential new member interest, Jacob Llodra has been added to the Invasive Species Committee email list
   2. Committee may be limited to 9 members
      1. Check possible associate membership
      2. Continue discussion at next meeting
2. The seventh order of business was: All other business
   1. Adam Burnett found location of *Ailanthus*, on Gibbet Hill, along fence line
      1. clusters of saplings along fence and near trail
      2. Olin Lathrop: Conservation Commission has easement in the area, but must get permission from Webbers

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to find contact for Webbers to get permission to treat *Ailanthus* on Gibbet Hill**

* 1. Ann Carpenter: Prescott Center advertised Garlic Mustard Pull Event and said event was free but suggested a $10 or $20 donation to Committee
     1. Olin Lathrop: we didn’t authorize the request for Prescott Center to request donations
     2. Jonathan Basch: unfortunate situation; Wouldn’t be appropriate for Committee to collect money
  2. Request for survey of invasive species treatment methods
     1. Jonathan Basch will forward the email to Committee
     2. Olin Lathrop has history of treatment data and can coordinate with Adam Burnett to calculate herbicide treatment
        1. Types of treatment and times of year

**ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop will respond to researcher regarding invasive species methods/treatments**

* 1. Olin Lathrop: Committee should have Vice Chair
     1. Olin Lathrop: Ron Strohsahl has been doing a lot of the work already
        1. Ron Strohsahl: May be unavailable during busy season of work through the summer
     2. Jonathan Basch: Charlotte Weigel has been filling in when Jonathan Basch is currently unavailable
  2. Ann Carpenter: submitted the invasive species article to Groton Herald for “What’s happening?” column
  3. Jonathan Basch: need to get laminated worksheets for the Garlic Pull Event
     1. Ann Carpenter: will need to get documents from Charlotte Weigel
        1. We should update worksheets to include garlic mustard, and other plants identifiable in early spring

1. Meeting Adjournment
   1. Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn
   2. Jonathan Basch seconded
   3. The motion to adjourn approved by unanimous roll call vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

**OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:**

1. Olin Lathrop continue to coordinate with MDAR about efforts to identify “lingering ash” throughout Massachusetts
2. Ron Strohsahl to invite Marisa Browning-Kamins to attend Invasive Species Committee to explain role of the coordinator position and identify ways we can assist
3. Charlotte Weigel to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area and Torrey Woods
4. Olin Lathrop to coordinate with Anna Eliot for bittersweet removal treatment with local neighborhood
5. Jonathan Basch to send email to coordinate Japanese barberry removal dates and times
6. Ron Strohsahl to email Nashua River Watershed Association and cc Jonathan Basch notifying them of attendance
7. Olin Lathropp to find contact for Webbers to get permission to treat *Ailanthus* on Gibbet Hill
8. Olin Lathrop will respond to researcher (that emailed Jonathan Basch) regarding invasive species methods/treatments

Other items discussed but no motions made for action items:

1. Check possible associate membership availability for Jacob Llodra
2. Jonathan Basch to forward survey requesting information regarding treatment methods and
3. Updates to invasive worksheets for school presentations to include plants growing in early spring, printing in color, and laminating the worksheets for reuse