

Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
19 May 2025
Meeting Minutes



Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel
Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Ann Carpenter

Committee Members Not Present:

Ben Wolfe
Ron Strohsahl
Brian Bettencourt
Richard Hewitt

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from April meeting
 2. Schedule for upcoming treatments
 3. Riverfest
 4. Lingering Ash lecture
 5. RISCC network and related discussion about knotweed.
 6. Membership Discussion
 7. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the April meeting
 - Minutes:
 - Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Ann Carpenter seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote
 - Action Items:
 - Assigned Previously:
 1. Olin Lathrop continue to coordinate with MDAR about “lingering ash” lecture
 - a. Date and time for lecture established, Legion Hall on June 11th, 7:00 pm
 - b. **New Action Item:** committee members to bring drinks and cookies - arrive around 6:30
 - c. Olin Lathrop read the draft lecture announcement
 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 - **not completed, unsure if she has additional information yet**
 3. Charlotte Weigel to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area and Torrey Woods - pending
 4. Olin Lathrop to coordinate with Anna Eliot for bittersweet removal treatment with local neighborhood - **completed**
 - a. Ron, Jonathan and Olin met Anna Eliot and pulled bittersweet for ~ 1.5 hours on May 17th

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5. Jonathan Basch to send email to coordinate Japanese barberry removal dates and times - **completed**
 6. Ron Strohsahl to email Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) and cc Jonathan Basch notifying them of attendance - **not completed, notified verbally**
 - a. Olin Lathrop: NRWA invited representatives from regional communities. Chris Pollitan presented how he maps and prioritizes treatments. Uses a grid of about 200 ft intervals to survey new areas. Discussion after the meeting, - Groton was one of three communities with Invasive Species Committee. Only committee with certified herbicide applicators and mapping program. Talk of arranging a state-wide conference on Invasive Species.
 7. Olin Lathrop to find contact for Webbers to get permission to treat Ailanthus on Gibbet Hill - left messages at Gibbet Hill and the Barn, but has not heard back.
 8. Olin Lathrop will respond to University of Massachusetts professor Bethany Bradley researcher (that contacted Jonathan Basch) regarding invasive species methods/treatments - Olin Lathrop completed the response to the survey
2. The second order of business was: Schedule for upcoming treatments
 - Possible Treatment of Ash trees at Deerhaven this coming weekend .
 - **New Action** for Olin Lathrop to coordinate schedule for treatment at Deerhaven via email
 - Adam Burnett to email Charlotte Steeves at the Conservation Committee before treating the Farmers and Mechanics plot for control of bittersweet
 3. The third order of business was: Riverfest
 - June 8th Sunday - Olin Lathrop/Jonathan Basch available/ Ann Carpenter available for part of the day
 4. The fourth order of business was: Lingering Ash lecture
 - covered in the action items above
 5. The fifth order of business was: RISCC network and related discussion about knotweed
 - Follow-up from the researcher survey that Olin Lathrop completed on behalf of the committee. Olin Lathrop had a phone conversation with a knotweed treatment expert located in NH. Olin will distribute the information on the listserv and article on knotweed treatment
 6. The sixth order of business was: Membership Discussion
 - Action Item: Jonathan to contact Jacob Llodra about his interest in joining the committee. Jonathan to contact Richard Hewitt regarding membership
 7. The seventh order of business was: All other business
 - Jonathan Basch to forward survey requesting information regarding treatment methods to Committee - completed
 - Discussion of updates to invasive worksheets for school presentations to include plants growing in early spring, printing in color, and laminating the worksheets for reuse
 - Ann Carpenter: would like to get pictures of native plants to hand out and laminate- thinking to include on one sheet with the Invasive Plants

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- Discussion of controlled burn conducted at Nipmuck meadow
 - Olin Lathrop: swallow-wort is back and may have benefited from the burning
- Additional action items identified:
- Actions for:
 - Olin Lathrop to contact Lucy Wallace regarding a site walk at Surrenden Farms
 - Charlotte Weigel: to survey Ailanthus and knotweed at GELD
 - Olin Lathrop to visit lost lake fire station to check on Ailanthus treatment
 - Adam Burnett to prepare triclopyr at Nod rd location
 - Adam Burnett to treat bittersweet at Farmers's Mechanics
- 8. Meeting Adjournment
 - Charlotte Weigel moved to adjourn
 - Olin Lathrop seconded
 - The motion to adjourn approved unanimously by roll call vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:

Assigned Previously:

1. **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 - **not completed, unsure if she has additional information yet - will establish as an agenda topic for upcoming meeting**
2. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area and Torrey Woods - pending
3. **Olin Lathrop** to find contact for Webbers to get permission to treat Ailanthus on Gibbet Hill - left messages at Gibbet Hill and the Barn, but has not heard back. Olin to continue follow-up

New:

4. **Olin** to schedule treatment of Ash trees at Deerhaven this coming weekend or next depending on weather/availability. Action for **Olin** to coordinate via email on schedule
5. **Adam** to send email to Charlotte Steeves at Conservation Committee before treating the bittersweet at Farmers and Mechanics site
6. Action for **committee members** to bring refreshments to Legion Hall on June 11th 6:30 for lingering ash lecture
7. **Olin** to share listserv information and article on knotweed treatment to the committee
8. **Jonathan** to contact Jacob about his interest in joining the committee
9. **Jonathan** to contact Richard regarding his interest in ongoing membership
10. **Jonathan** to combine native and invasive plant information on single page front/back and laminate 20 copies for educational use
11. Action for **Olin** to contact Lucy Wallace to schedule site walk at Surrenden Farms
12. **Charlotte** to Survey knotweed and Ailanthus at GELD
13. **Olin** to visit Lost Lake Fire station to check on regrowth of Ailanthus

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14. **Adam** to treat knotweed regrowth with Triclopyr at Nod Rd