

**Town of Groton  
Invasive Species Committee  
25 June 2025  
Meeting Minutes**



**Committee Members Present:**

Charlotte Weigel  
Jonathan Basch  
Adam Burnett  
Ron Strohsahl  
Ann Carpenter

**Committee Members Not Present:**

Ben Wolfe  
Olin Lathrop  
Brian Bettencourt  
Richard Hewitt

---

**Agenda:**

1. Review minutes and action items from May meeting
  2. Debrief on recent events; Riverfest and Lingering Ash lecture
  3. Schedule for upcoming treatments/events
  4. Knotweed on Townsend rd
  5. Town of Stow Japanese knotweed homeowner eradication permit
  6. Membership discussion
  7. All other business
- 

The Committee did not achieve a quorum for the meeting, discussion ensues at 7:06pm.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the May meeting
  - a. Minutes:
    - i. Review of minutes postponed until next meeting
  - b. Action Items:
    - i. Assigned Previously:
      1. **Ron Strohsahl** to invite Marisa Browning-Kamins to attend Invasive Species Committee meeting in the future to explain the role of the invasive coordinator position and identify ways we can assist
        - a. Completed - Marisa has agreed to attend when more information is available. She is awaiting budget information from Wild and Scenic Rivers Committee
      2. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area (Parcel 232-9) and Torrey Woods (Parcel 231-94)
        - a. Pending
      3. **Olin Lathrop** to find contact for Webbers to get permission to treat tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) on Gibbet Hill
        - a. Olin contacted Webbers, but Adam Burnett identified suspected plants as black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) saplings, thus no treatment is necessary
    - ii. New Action Items from May meeting:
      1. **Olin Lathrop** to schedule treatment of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees at Deerhaven (Parcels 127-12, 127-40) this coming weekend (May 21-22) or following weekend depending on

**Town of Groton  
Invasive Species Committee  
25 June 2025  
Meeting Minutes**



- weather/availability (May 29-30, June 1). Action for **Olin Lathrop** to coordinate via email on schedule
- a. was tentatively scheduled for June 22, but weather required rescheduling; date to be determined
2. **Adam Burnett** to send email to Charlotte Steeves at Conservation Committee before treating the Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) at Farmers and Mechanics Club site (Parcel 217-78)
    - a. Completed, Asiatic bittersweet located and treated
  3. Action for **all committee members** to bring refreshments to Legion Hall on June 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 for lingering ash lecture
    - a. Completed
  4. **Olin Lathrop** to share listserv information and article on Japanese knotweed treatment to the Committee
    - a. Pending
  5. **Jonathan Basch** to contact Jacob Llodra regarding his interest in joining the committee
    - a. Completed
  6. **Jonathan Basch** to contact **Richard Hewitt** regarding his interest in ongoing membership
    - a. Completed, Richard Hewitt will discontinue membership at the end of his term
  7. **Jonathan Basch** to create 20 laminated copies of native and invasive plant information to be used during educational events
    - a. Pending
  8. **Olin Lathrop** to contact Lucy Wallace to schedule site walk for members of the Wild and Scenic Council to review the Committee's work at Surrenden Farm (Parcel 210-8)
    - a. Completed, ongoing. Meeting date to be determined by Wild & Scenic Committee member's schedules
  9. **Charlotte Weigel** to survey for Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) and tree-of-heaven at GELD property (Parcel 113-51)
    - a. Completed by Adam Burnett and Jonathan Basch. There is more Japanese knotweed than expected following last year's treatment. Plants were treated with glyphosate in a combination of foliar spray or cut/dab technique
  10. **Olin Lathrop** to visit Lost Lake Fire station (Parcel 125-83) to check on regrowth of tree-of-heaven
    - a. Completed, updated via email on 6/25/25. Treatment was effective.
  11. **Adam Burnett** to treat Japanese knotweed regrowth with diluted triclopyr at Nod Road (Parcels 216-63)
    - a. Pending
2. The second order of business was: Debrief on recent events; Riverfest and Lingering Ash lecture
- a. Groton Riverfest (Sunday, June 8, 2025, 10am-4pm)
    - i. Committee members distributed invasive species treatment brochures and children enjoyed completing the scavenger hunt
  - b. Lingering Ash Lecture (Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 7:00pm)
    - i. Very informative presentation from Nicole Keleher, Forest Health Director from Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Town of Groton  
Invasive Species Committee  
25 June 2025  
Meeting Minutes**



- ii. It is too early to determine whether Groton has lingering ash trees, or if they haven't been affected by emerald ash borer yet
  - iii. Ms. Keleher detailed methods for recording and reporting lingering ash to identify specimens
  - iv. Approximately 30 people in attendance including 5 members of Committee
3. The third order of business was: Schedule for upcoming treatments/events
- a. Groton Electric & Light Department (GELD; Parcel 113-51)
    - i. treatment completed on 6/14 (see discussed May Action Item #9)
  - b. Country Club (Parcel 115-33)
    - i. treatment of Japanese knotweed completed on 6/14
    - ii. Black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) observed and confirmed near driving range
  - c. Surrenden Farm (Parcel 210-8)
    - i. treatment and restoration has been very successful, almost no Japanese knotweed remaining in that section along Nashua River
    - ii. Foliar spraying of remaining Japanese knotweed completed on 6/22 by Jonathan Basch and Adam Burnett
      - 1. Additional tentative treatment on Saturday 6/28
  - d. Nod Road (Parcel 216-63)
    - i. needs treatment, Adam Burnett has been assigned Action Item
  - e. Emerald Ash Borer treatment at Deerhaven
    - i. Olin has equipment, treatment tentatively scheduled for Sunday 6/29
  - f. Japanese knotweed at Groton School property in road easement along Route 111 across from General Field (Parcel 219-2?)
    - i. Treated last year with approval from Groton School
    - ii. Jonathan Basch requested and received permission to treat again in 2025
      - 1. Will treat when re-treating Surrenden Farm, late summer
4. The fourth order of business was: Japanese knotweed along Townsend Road (MBTA property)
- a. Moved to next meeting
5. The fifth order of business was: Town of Stow Japanese knotweed homeowner eradication permit
- a. Moved to next meeting
6. The sixth order of business was: Membership discussion
- a. Jacob Llodra attended this meeting
    - i. Definitely interested in participating and helping with treatments
    - ii. Interest in joining Committee in future
7. The seventh order of business was: All other business
- a. Olin Lathrop & Ron Strohsahl discussed using volunteers to create grid treatment pattern through Town Forest, based upon information from Chris Polatin presented at Nashua River Watershed Association Invasive Species Coordination conference
    - i. Create grid on properties using GIS, allow volunteers to walk to center of each cell and rate area for % of invasives

**Town of Groton  
Invasive Species Committee  
25 June 2025  
Meeting Minutes**



1. Jonathan Basch suggests “stewards” of specific properties to help identify and map same property over time
2. Committee can only treat what we see, so all additional information is helpful for locating invasive populations
- ii. Groton Trails Committee has interactive map and can upload observations directly to the map
  1. Can users identify and upload invasive sightings to Trails Committee map and then they could forward to us?
- b. Reminder to all members to get sworn in at Town Hall
- c. Japanese knotweed brochures in Prescott Center need restocking
  - i. Ann Carpenter & Jonathan Basch to coordinate and restock brochures in Prescott Center

**OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:**

1. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area (Parcel 232-9) and Torrey Woods (Parcel 231-94)
2. **Olin Lathrop** to schedule treatment of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees at Deerhaven (Parcels 127-12, 127-40)
3. **Olin Lathrop** to share listserv information and article on Japanese knotweed treatment to the Committee
4. **Jonathan Basch** to create 20 laminated color copies of native and invasive plant information to be used during educational events
5. **Adam Burnett** to schedule and treat Japanese knotweed regrowth with diluted triclopyr at Nod Road
6. **All members:** get sworn in at Town Hall as soon as possible
7. **Ann Carpenter & Jonathan Basch** to coordinate and restock brochures in Prescott Center