

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
21 July 2025
Meeting Minutes**



Committee Members Present:

Brian Bettencourt
Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Ron Strohsahl
Ann Carpenter
Ben Wolfe

Committee Members Not Present:

Charlotte Weigel

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from May/June meetings
 2. Debrief on recent treatments
 3. Schedule for upcoming treatments/events
 4. Knotweed on Townsend rd and in town right of ways/Coordination with DPW
 5. Bittersweet on town parcel 228-59 behind Olivia Way
 6. Proposal for porcelain-berry brochure
 7. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the May and June meetings
 - 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 unanimous roll call vote
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. **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
 2. **Olin Lathrop** to schedule treatment of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees at Deerhaven (Parcels 127-12, 127-40)
 - a. Completed 6/30
 3. **Olin Lathrop** to share listserv information and article on Japanese knotweed treatment with the Committee
 - a. Not required
 4. **Jonathan Basch** to create 20 laminated color copies of native and invasive plant information to be used during educational events
 - a. Pending

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5. **Adam Burnett** to schedule and treat Japanese knotweed regrowth with diluted triclopyr at Nod Road
 - a. Completed, two foliar applications applied
 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
 - a. Pending
2. The second order of business was: Debrief on recent treatments
 - a. Deerhaven - ash tree injection treatment
 - i. Ann Carpenter provided spreadsheet and photographs of work completed
 1. Six volunteer hours total required
 - ii. Olin Lathrop observed that trees are reacting positively to treatment, and even recovering
 - b. Nod Road - Japanese knotweed foliar spraying
 - i. Two hours of volunteer time
 - c. Nipmuc Meadows - Martins Pond Road
 - i. Olin Lathrop and Bruce Easom completed black swallow-wort foliar treatment
 - ii. Olin Lathrop observed small section of Japanese knotweed along Martins Pond Road
 1. Pulled stems completely with root ball and appears effective
 - a. Brian Bettencourt noted he has been doing similar at home but it keeps returning
 - d. Surrenden Farms/Campbell Well
 - i. Adam Burnett completed additional foliar spraying on remaining knotweed stems
 - ii. Jonathan Basch noticed more Japanese knotweed further north from treatment site
- ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to send coordinates of new Japanese knotweed location to Ron Strohsahl for mapping in ArcGIS**
 - e. Country Club
 - i. Jonathan Basch & Adam Burnett applied foliar spray along hillside adjacent to wetland where previous treatments occurred
3. The third order of business was: Schedule for upcoming treatments/events
 - a. Hayden Road, Japanese knotweed
 - b. Route 111, across from Groton School in public ROW
 - i. Japanese knotweed adjacent to telephone pole, three separate sections
 - c. West Street, Japanese knotweed
- ACTION ITEM: Brian Bettencourt to contact property owner for access and location of Japanese knotweed at West Street**
 - d. GELD, Japanese knotweed and *Phragmites*
4. The fourth order of business was: Japanese knotweed on Townsend Road and in public right of ways/coordination with DPW
 - a. GELD truck working on telephone pole has police detail and was observed cutting Japanese knotweed to access utility pole
 - b. DPW is mowing and causing it to spread further into the road
 - c. Educate DPW staff on possible destruction to pavement

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- d. Olin Lathrop: we may be requested by DPW to treat other portions of town ROWs
- e. Does anyone else in Town have applicator license?
 - i. Parks Department sprays herbicide/pesticide, so possibly have applicator license

ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to contact town to find DPW contacts regarding treatments

- 5. The fifth order of business was: Asiatic bittersweet on town parcel 228-59 behind Olivia Way
 - a. Homeowners at 5 Olivia Way attending the meeting
 - i. Just moved into property and Asiatic bittersweet on Town of Groton property are covering trees and could pull trees towards house
 - ii. Adam Burnett: we have prioritization system but may move prioritization higher for homeowners
 - iii. Olin Lathrop: spend two hours and see how much work we complete
 - 1. Approximately 200 feet by 80 feet
 - iv. Brian Bettencourt: should be completed in the fall for optimum effectiveness
 - 1. Plan on late August, first week of September
 - 2. Follow up in spring for smaller sprouts and add to the treatment locations
- 6. The sixth order of business was: Proposal for porcelain-berry brochure
 - a. Ben Wolfe has started working on brochure and will send
 - i. Looks similar to grape vine and spreading quickly in his neighborhood
 - ii. Berries are visible in mid-September, blue/purple color
 - iii. Porcelain-berry has shiny leaves that are smaller leaves than grape vine leaves

- 7. The seventh order of business was: All other business
 - a. Japanese knotweed biocontrol released in Massachusetts
 - i. Psyllid (insect) has been test released across MA from labs from URI

ACTION ITEM: Brian Bettencourt to contact URI to ask if Groton can be a volunteer test site

- b. Town of Stow Japanese knotweed homeowner permit

ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to send copy of permit to Committee for review

- c. All members receive financial report

ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop recirculate homeowner protocol for treating Japanese knotweed for review by committee

- 8. Meeting Adjournment
 - a. Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn
 - b. Adam Burnett seconded
 - c. The motion to adjourn approved by unanimous roll call vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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. **Jonathan Basch** to create 20 laminated color copies of native and invasive plant information to be used during educational events

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3. **Ann Carpenter & Jonathan Basch** to coordinate and restock brochures in Prescott Center
4. **All members:** get sworn in at Town Hall as soon as possible
5. **Jonathan Basch** to send coordinates of new Japanese knotweed location near Surrenden Farms to Ron Strohsahl for mapping in ArcGIS
6. **Brian Bettencourt** to contact property owner for access and location of Japanese knotweed at West Street
7. **Jonathan Basch** to contact town to find DPW contacts regarding treatments in town rights-of-way
8. **Brian Bettencourt** to contact URI to ask if Groton can be a volunteer test site for Japanese knotweed biocontrol release
9. **Ron Strohsahl** to send copy of Town of Stow Japanese knotweed treatment permit to Committee for review
10. **Olin Lathrop** to recirculate homeowner protocol for treating Japanese knotweed for review by committee