

Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
22 September 2025
Meeting Minutes



Town of
Groton
Massachusetts

Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel
Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Ron Strohsahl
Ann Carpenter

Committee Members Not Present:

Ben Wolfe
Brian Bettencourt

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from August meeting
2. Wild and Scenic Committee Regional invasive Species Coordinator – Marisa Browning-Kamins
3. Invasive plants at Florence Roche Elementary and Boutwell
4. Debrief on recent treatments
5. Schedule for upcoming treatments/ Middle School visit
6. Vegetative management plan for RoWs
7. Proposal for porcelain-berry brochure
8. All other business

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the August meeting
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Adam Burnett moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Charlotte Weigel seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed by roll call vote (5-0-1)
 - a. Abstains: Olin Lathrop
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Sawtell Conservation Area (Parcel 232-9)
 - a. completed
 2. and Torrey Woods (Parcel 231-94)
 - a. pending
 3. **Jonathan Basch** to create 20 laminated color copies of native and invasive plant information to be used during educational events
 - a. completed
 4. **Ann Carpenter and Jonathan Basch** to meet to finalize version and laminate copies
 - a. Completed

ACTION ITEM: Ann Carpenter to contact middle school to coordinate scheduling invasive presentation

5. **Jonathan Basch** to let GELD know we have completed additional work in 2025

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
22 September 2025
Meeting Minutes**



**Town of
Groton
Massachusetts**

- a. completed

ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to confirm payment from GELD

- 6. **Jonathan Basch** to coordinate treatment of Surrenden Farms
 - a. pending
- 7. **Adam Burnett** will attempt creating extended applicator for backpack sprayer to reach over knotweed
 - a. pending
- 8. **Jonathan Basch** to contact Olivia Way homeowner and schedule treatment
 - a. completed
- 9. **Olin Lathrop** to send the Olivia Way homeowner's contact information to Jonathan Basch
 - a. completed
- 10. **Charlotte Weigel** to schedule Japanese stiltgrass removal event at Groton Town Forest
 - a. completed
- 11. **Ron Strohsahl** to send MA DEP website with VMP and Regulations
 - a. **All members** review VMP examples for future review
- 12. **Ben Wolfe** to write article for the Groton Herald to educate the public while porcelain-berry berries are visible
 - a. pending
- 13. **Ron Strohsahl** to contact Marisa to ask if she would be willing to attend Sept. 22 meeting and discuss updates to the position
 - a. completed

2. The second order of business was: Discussion regarding the Wild and Scenic (W&S) Stewardship Committee Regional Invasive Species Coordinator position – Marisa Browning-Kamins

- a. Creating the Coordinator position was discussed W&S kickoff meeting May with the goal of increasing communication, pooling resources, and supporting local committees with permitting, treatment, etc., when dealing with invasive species
- b. Brainstorming ideas for Coordinator role to implement:
 - i. Creation of online regional map
 - 1. Pin showing location of work and where projects are ongoing, and notes for possible collaboration
 - ii. Two in-person and two virtual meetings with various subjects to increase communication
 - iii. Case-study somewhere in the 11 communities to show collaboration efforts
 - iv. Weed-warriors program like SuAsCo CISMA (Sudbury, Assabet, Concord, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area)
 - 1. pool of volunteers for local committees to request assistance from
 - v. Updates to W&S website with grant opportunities and available contractors for Committees
 - vi. W&S also considering funding a licensed applicator
 - 1. Olin Lathrop: Biggest issue is getting insurance. If W&S could get floating insurance policy to cover applicators for other towns in community, then all applicators could rotate
 - 2. Crossing state lines wouldn't work, so NH towns would need their own applicators

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
22 September 2025
Meeting Minutes**



**Town of
Groton
Massachusetts**

- c. Official position title is "Land Stewardship Coordinator" and role is being conducted by Marisa Browning-Kamins
- d. W&S guidance would focus primarily around main rivers and tributaries, but not defined or limited to floodplain

ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to forward email address of MBTA steward to Marisa Browning-Kamins

- e. Permitting for proposed work would fall to the local community and once approved an applicator could be notified to complete foliar spraying

ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to email Marisa the Japanese knotweed homeowner handout

3. The third order of business was: Invasive plants at Florence Roche Elementary and Boutwell
 - a. Richard Hewitt (former member) observed Japanese knotweed near road entrance, and Brian Bettencourt also discussed invasives with someone at the school
 - b. Discussion tabled until next meeting
4. The fourth order of business was: Debrief on recent treatments
 - a. Olin Lathrop completed *Phragmites* treatments
 - i. Priest Hill - very promising results, was able to access formerly wetter areas and treat sprouts in wetland
 - ii. Rail Trail - way less than two years ago, treatments ongoing for couple more years
 - iii. Eliades - *Phragmites* has shifted to the north end of the ditch, but cattails filling in southern end in previously treated areas
 - iv. Did not treat end of Hayden Road
 - v. Knotweed at Nipmuc meadows - minor stragglers to treat
 - 1. Black swallowwort also within field
 - b. Olivia Way
 - i. Homeowner assisted with removal of bittersweet but Committee members also noticed large *Ailanthus* trees in subject area
 - 1. Homeowner has been granted permission from Conservation Commission to do work behind his house
 - ii. Proposed treatment is to spray smaller trees to contain *Ailanthus* spread, and to observe whether the root systems are connected
 - iii. Coordinate timing with homeowner if he wants to remove the trees
 - 1. Committee should consider requiring liability forms
 - c. Stiltgrass at Town Forest parking lot
 - i. Population near yellow gate has been reduced, but it has spread in other areas around parking lot
 - ii. Largest area of stiltgrass is along north edge of parking area, beneath raspberry/blackberry
 - iii. Bags with pulled stiltgrass were left to dry
5. The fifth order of business was: Schedule for upcoming treatments/Middle School visit
 - a. Stiltgrass on Rail Trail
 - i. Parking lot at Sand hill towards Pepperell
 - ii. Some areas recently mowed by others
 - b. Highest priority is knotweed treatment at Surrenden Farms

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
22 September 2025
Meeting Minutes**



**Town of
Groton
Massachusetts**

- i. Plan for September 27-28 while knotweed is in bloom

ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to check pin for knotweed on Nashua River to determine whether it is within Groton and public land

- c. Country Club knotweed treatment - complete areas at the top of the hill
 - i. Aim for first week of October
- 6. The sixth order of business was: Vegetative Management Plan (VMP) for RoWs
 - a. Winter project to write and research
 - b. Work with DPW to enable them to complete tasks, not restrict them
 - i. DPW doesn't have the resources to create a VMP, nor the ability to monitor the Town for invasives, and does not have a prioritization list of invasive species, or areas to protect, and Invasive Species Committee can fulfil those duties

ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to present example VMPs to Committee

- 7. The seventh order of business was: Proposal for porcelain-berry brochure
 - a. Discussion tabled until next meeting
- 8. The eighth order of business was: All other business
 - a. Olin Lathrop made jam from ~13,000 autumn olive berries
 - b. We have additional signs to place at treatment locations
 - i. Ask the Town Forest Committee for placement at parking area
 - c. Jonathan Basch traveled to Halifax Nova Scotia, and observed 40-foot tall chestnut tree
 - i. Descendent trees were isolated enough to escape the initial blight
 - ii. 40-50 year old chestnuts have sprouted
- 9. Meeting Adjournment
 - a. Olin Lathrop moved to adjourn
 - b. Charlotte Weigel seconded
 - c. The motion to adjourn approved by unanimous roll call vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:

1. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Torrey Woods (Parcel 231-94)
2. **Ann Carpenter** to contact middle school to coordinate scheduling invasive presentation
3. **Jonathan Basch** to confirm payment from GELD
4. **Jonathan Basch** to coordinate treatment of Surrenden Farms
5. **Adam Burnett** will attempt creating extended applicator for backpack sprayer to reach over knotweed
6. **Ben Wolfe** to write article for the Groton Herald to educate the public while porcelain-berry berries are visible
7. **Ron Strohsahl** to forward email address of MBTA steward to Marisa Browning-Kamin
8. **Olin Lathrop** to email Marisa the Japanese knotweed homeowner handout
9. **Ron Strohsahl** to check pin of Japanese knotweed on Nashua River to determine whether it is within Groton and on public land

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
22 September 2025
Meeting Minutes**



*Town of
Groton
Massachusetts*

10. **Ron Strohsahl** to present example VMPs to Committee