

Town of Groton  
Invasive Species Committee  
20 October 2025  
Meeting Minutes



Town of  
**Groton**  
Massachusetts

Committee Members Present:

Jonathan Basch  
Olin Lathrop  
Adam Burnett  
Ron Strohsahl (lost connection)  
Ann Carpenter  
Brian Bettencourt (joined by phone)

Committee Members Not Present:

Charlotte Weigel

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**Agenda:**

1. Review minutes and action items from September meeting
2. Debrief on recent treatments and events
3. Right of Way (ROW) Vegetative management plan
4. Proposal for Porcelain berry brochure
5. All other business

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The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the September meeting
  - a. Minutes:
    - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
      1. Olin moved to approve the minutes as amended
      2. Ann seconded the motion
      3. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote
      - a. Abstains: none
  - b. Action Items:
    - i. Assigned Previously:
      1. **Charlotte Weigel** to find latitude/longitude of Japanese barberry stand in Torrey Woods (Parcel 231-94) - *pending*
      2. **Ann Carpenter** to contact middle school to coordinate scheduling invasive presentation - completed
        - a. Charlotte and Ann led exploration of invasive and native species at middle school on October 17.
      3. **Jonathan Basch** to confirm payment from GELD - completed
        - a. Additional \$200 contribution from GELD was received.
      4. **Jonathan Basch** to coordinate treatment of Surrenden Farms - completed
        - a. Olin: spent more time looking for Japanese knotweed than finding it at Surrenden and Campbell well site
        - b. Olin went to the end of Hayden Rd. and sprayed with dilute triclopyr last year, and it was effective on Asiatic bittersweet as well.

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5. **Adam Burnett** will attempt creating extended applicator for backpack sprayer to reach over knotweed - *pending*
  - a. Adam can buy another part to create an extension. It needs to extend far and be strong enough. It can also be lashed onto an extension pole for strength. Should be around \$20 to create something workable.
6. **Ben Wolfe** wrote an article for the Groton Herald to educate the public while porcelain-berry berries are visible - *pending*
  - a. Ben has retired from this committee
7. **Ron Strohsahl** to forward email address of MBTA steward to Marisa Browning-Kamins - completed
8. **Olin Lathrop** to email Marisa the Japanese knotweed homeowner handout - completed
  - a. She was pleased with it.
9. **Ron Strohsahl** to check GPS location of Japanese knotweed on Nashua River to determine whether it is within Groton and on public land - completed but needs follow up
  - a. Lost connection with Ron before presenting
10. **Ron Strohsahl** to present example Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) to Committee - pending
  - a. Tabled until Ron is here in person.
  - b. The State has guidelines for VMPs. We will ask Ron to share state website, and put on agenda for when he is here in person.

2. The second order of business was: Debrief on recent treatments and event
  - a. Ann debriefed on Middle School Invasive Species Day. Approximately 180 students were in attendance. After a brief introduction, students spent 30 - 40 minutes outside, with a wrap up after with questions. Students asked questions about how we work to control invasive species, and other thoughtful questions.
3. The third order of business was: RoW Vegetative management plan
  - a. Brian found additional Japanese knotweed along Nod Road
    - i. Observations: Jonathan suggested thinking and planning over the winter. We are still making progress if we set it back more than it grows each year. Otherwise we could hire a contractor to come in and do some work.
    - ii. Adam: noted that DEP is involved and is requiring the town to sample ground water.
    - iii. Jonathan: Invasive species committee would want to be able to review the Vegetation Management Plan. It should fall under the same scope as those open to public comment. Adam also noted that they cannot allow woody vegetation trees to grow on the cap.
      1. Adam: a consultant could prepare a Plan
    - iv. Jonathan: We can monitor the status of the Plan. Adam will find out what the next steps are for us to become involved. It is all town property that borders state forest and private land.
4. The fourth order of business was: all other business
  - a. Invasive plants at Florence Roche Elementary and Boutwell

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- i. Brian: Boutwell has a section of Japanese knotweed, and the West Groton Fire Department has an area
- ii. Jonathan: asked what size of areas? Brian: At the Fire Dept. it is 20-30 feet (not sure how deep). Brian: we would have to check Boutwell distribution and private property lines. Brian: Japanese knotweed at middle school will be managed by Collin Fredette, he stated that the new FloRo already has Japanese knotweed coming up in garden beds. Olin will try to go and check it.

5. The fourth order of business was: Proposal for Porcelain Berry Brochure

- a. Jonathan will ask Ben for content for the new brochure so work can continue.

6. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Brian moved to adjourn
- b. Olin seconded
- c. The motion to adjourn approved by unanimous roll call vote
- i. no abstains

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

The Zoom meeting started, but was terminated due to interruption and Brian called in by phone.