

Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
16 March 2026
Meeting Minutes



Town of
Groton
Massachusetts

Committee Members Present:

Jonathan Basch
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Ron Strohsahl
Brian Bettencourt

Committee Members Not Present:

Ann Carpenter
Charlotte Weigel

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from last meeting
 2. Update on Dam removal
 3. Vegetation Management Plan
 4. Upcoming events and treatments
 5. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the March 2, 2026 meeting
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Olin Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Adam Burnett seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed by roll call vote (4-0-1)
 - a. Abstains: Brian Bettencourt
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. Jonathan Basch to identify lanternfly funnel traps for purchase
 - a. Amazon has varieties of traps available
 - i. Open mesh funnel trap, can purchase 4 for <\$20
 - ii. Can purchase four and place them around Town near known *Ailanthus* populations to monitor whether there are lanternflies in Groton
 1. Possible trapping locations: Olivia Way (Conservation Commission owned), Northwinds (private property)
 - b. Brian Bettencourt makes motion to authorize spending \$25 for up to 4 lanternfly traps
 1. Olin Lathrop seconds motion
 2. Motion passes unanimously
- ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch** to purchase up to four lanternfly traps for up to \$25
- ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop** to discuss placing the traps on the Olivia Way homeowner property, who is now a Stewardship Committee member
 2. Jonathan Basch to purchase 1,000 copies of the brochures, spending up to \$350
 - a. Proof printed - looks good, will proceed with approving print all copies

2. The second order of business was: Update on Dam removal

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- a. Olin Lathrop attended MACC conference, and attended two sessions on dam removal
 - i. Olin Lathrop asked presenters on how to keep invasives out of newly dried land after stream levels normalized
 - 1. They explained that the existing seed bank is dormant and will resprout when conditions are right and in previous cases, repopulated the areas prior to invasive plants gaining a foothold
 - 2. Brian Bettencourt: That may be true, but what is the invasive pressure on the dam projects that were presented? Our project has Japanese knotweed all along the existing bank
 - a. Olin: Approximately 12 projects throughout the state showed positive results
 - 3. Adam Burnett: There may also be a seed bank of invasive species in the sediment
 - ii. Adam Burnett researched how the dam removal would change the property boundaries and how it would affect the Committee's jurisdiction over the newly exposed areas
 - 1. The property line will be extended to the centerline of the stream (also moves the Town boundary to stream centerline)
 - 2. Carol Wheeler Park and MBTA properties will extend further west, and we can monitor those areas
 - a. We cannot extend our monitoring onto the Canner properties, but they are receptive to ecological restoration advice
- b. Committee will continue to monitor the Town Meeting vote
- c. Jonathan Basch: if dam removal is approved, we can use the exposed land to perform an experiment on whether native seeding and plantings are more successful than existing seed bank

- 3. The third order of business was: Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
 - a. Committee reviewed and edited document

ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to research Category 40 Rights of Way management treatment

ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl to edit VMP for additional accuracy

- 4. The fourth order of business was: Upcoming events and treatments
 - a. First treatments of season are Japanese barberry treatments
 - i. Lawrence Woods/Groton Hills
 - ii. Garlic mustard pull at Willard Barn
 - iii. Early Japanese knotweed treatments

ACTION ITEM: Olin Lathrop to visit Groton Hills to estimate Japanese barberry coverage and required efforts for removal

- 5. The fifth order of business was: All other business
 - a. Groton Conservation Forum is Thursday March 26, 6:30pm, at Senior Center

ACTION ITEM: Adam Burnett to submit reimbursement receipt to Town for sprayer extension purchase

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

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The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:

1. **Jonathan Basch** to purchase up to four lanternfly traps for up to \$25
2. **Olin Lathrop** to discuss placing the traps on the Olivia Way homeowner property, who is now a Stewardship Committee member
3. **Jonathan Basch** to research Category 40 Rights of Way management treatment
4. **Ron Strohsahl** to edit VMP for additional accuracy
5. **Olin Lathrop** to visit Groton Hills to estimate Japanese barberry coverage and required efforts for removal
6. **Adam Burnett** to submit reimbursement receipt to Town for sprayer extension purchase