

**Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
20 July 2026
Meeting Minutes**



Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Not Present:

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from last meeting
 2. Review of recent treatments
 3. Upcoming events and treatments
 4. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the June meeting
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Adam Burnett moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Ron Strohsahl seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed by unanimous vote
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. **Olin Lathrop** to research purchase history and evaluate costs of new spray wand from Hudson Pro - complete
 - a. Olin Lathrop found an additional piece that he already owned, so purchasing a new spray wand is not necessary
 2. **Olin Lathrop** to request volunteers from Stewardship Committee from 12-2p on 6/20, or on 6/21 (weather dependent) - complete
 3. **Olin Lathrop** to create "invoice" for donation from GELD - complete
 4. **Charlotte Weigel** to contact Northwoods Drive homeowner to hang and access lanternfly trap through July 2026

ACTION ITEM: Jonathan Basch to follow up with Charlotte Weigel regarding whether she contacted Northwoods Drive homeowner about lanternfly traps

2. The second order of business was: Review recent treatments
 - a. Japanese knotweed at MBTA land and Carol G. Wheeler Park
 - i. Committee members visited twice (6/20 and 6/27) and cut stems and applied cut-and-drip method with diluted glyphosate to the Japanese knotweed stand
 1. At least one additional treatment is necessary to address remaining population

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- ii. Before this Committee could apply third treatment DPW mowed the remaining standing vegetation
 - 1. Area that was mowed but not treated with glyphosate has new Japanese knotweed sprouts
 - 2. Adam Burnett recommends foliar treatment with diluted triclopyr to the new growth, instead of utilizing the cut-drip method
 - iii. At end of one of the visits, Olin Lathrop sprayed extra glyphosate in backpack on Asiatic bittersweet in Carol Wheeler Park
 - 1. Will need to evaluate the results
 - b. Squannacook Fire Station
 - i. Treated section of Japanese knotweed, but did not treat all the way to the fence because the Japanese knotweed is acting as privacy hedge for neighboring homeowner and we need to confirm property lines and fence location before further treatments are proposed
 - c. Spot Treatments
 - i. GELD, Nipmuc Meadows, Nod Road, Petapawag, across from General Field, Hayden Road
 - 1. All sites treated with diluted triclopyr
 - 3. The third order of business was: Upcoming events and treatments
 - a. 2nd visit in 2026 for Groton Country Club to treat Japanese knotweed
 - b. 2nd visit in 2026 at Campbell Well/Surrenden Farms to treat Japanese knotweed
 - c. Carol G. Wheeler Park to treat Japanese knotweed and Asiatic bittersweet
 - d. Fall treatments of *Phragmites* at various locations
 - 4. The fourth order of business was: all other business
 - a. Adam Burnett watched an invasive species seminar that described success of different types of herbicide treatments
 - i. One study showed treatment of honeysuckle in Illinois with basal bark oil treatment with diluted triclopyr (Garlon 4 Ultra)
 - 1. 100% success rate over 2 years with no cutting required
 - a. Some non-target vegetation near base of plants died from runoff
 - b. Brian Bettencourt was interviewed by Boy Scout member as part of one of the badge requirements, which required interviewing an active citizen of the community
 - i. Brian was asked whether there were any invasive species in Town that are “furry” and posed the same question to the Committee for discussion.
 - 1. The Committee ultimately decided that the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) is the most appropriate answer
 - 2. Brian Bettencourt forwarded the results of the discussion to the Boy Scout via email
 - c. Ron Strohsahl observed Japanese knotweed (single stem) at a telephone pole just north of current treatment area that is across from General Field
 - d. Ron Strohsahl also possibly observed tree-of-heaven along east edge of General Field, west side of Farmers Row. Located on Groton Conservation Trust property or in the right of way.
- ACTION ITEM: Ron Strohsahl** to send approximate Japanese knotweed and tree-of-heaven locations to Olin Lathrop and Brian Bettencourt to confirm identification for possible treatments
- e. Homeowner on Schoolhouse Road has Japanese knotweed growing adjacent to vernal pool

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- i. Homeowner may ask for our assistance regarding how to address the infestation, and will need to file with Conservation Commission before conducting any treatments
- ii. Brian Bettencourt has neighbor that has Japanese knotweed surrounding their pond and has been treating it by repeatedly cutting it, but has not been successful in reducing the population
 - 1. Olin Lathrop recommends buying backpack sprayer and filing with Conservation Commission for advice regarding which chemicals to use, and approval for work near jurisdictional wetlands

5. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Brian Bettencourt moved to adjourn
- b. Olin Lathrop seconded
- c. The motion to adjourn approved by majority vote
 - i. Abstains: Adam Burnett

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW:

- 1. **Jonathan Basch** to follow up with Charlotte Weigel regarding whether she contacted Northwoods Drive homeowner about lanternfly traps
- 2. **Ron Strohsahl** to send approximate Japanese knotweed and tree-of-heaven locations to Olin Lathrop and Brian Bettencourt to confirm identification for possible treatments