

# Native Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: REMOTE ACCESS

Attendees: Pat Swain Rice, Emily Boeing, Juliana Molina, Annette Cate, Evan Worth, Deb Fountain

## 1. Introductions (Deb)

- Welcome everyone - thanks for volunteering for this new committee and for your community service.
- Excited to see lots of diversity in talents, skills, backgrounds, and what we can all bring to the table to grow into a very effective working group that will benefit ecological health of Pepperell and keep our citizens informed, and to help build interest and momentum in civic engagement in these areas
- Committee formed as a result of a Master Plan recommendation; not many in the state (yet)
- Review of **Open Meeting Law**
  - has everyone been sworn in? (all except Evan & Juliana)
  - OML ensures transparency in govt - requires that most meetings of public bodies be held in public, and establishes rules we must follow in the creation and maintenance of meeting records
  - conversations among the committee members outside of meetings are perfectly legal, so long as they aren't discussing business before the committee (strategizing votes, etc.). Business only gets conducted in a publicly posted meeting. The OML guide has a good explanation of exceptions like trying to schedule a meeting.
  - The remote participation section is out of date in the guide due to the pandemic (the rest of the guide is the most current version). We have broader authority to conduct meetings remotely as we have for a year now.
- Each member introduced themselves, why they volunteered, areas of interests, etc

## 2. Elect Chair / Clerk

- Chair - set up meetings/coord agenda topics/ manage the meetings/ keep committee focused on goals - Elected - Deb F - unanimous vote
- Clerk - maintain comm records, meeting minutes (this could be rotated too and the clerk could just be responsible to ensure they get done and set up schedule). Who will take minutes tonight? - Elected Juliana Molina - unanimous vote
- Discuss records - setting up web presence for public, but also do we want to share working docs with research, resources, etc on Google Docs? Evan volunteered to set this up when ready

### **3. Review Committee Charge**

- review document
- how often should we meet? weekly to start; may change later
- available nights - Wed, 7 PM is best

### **4. Grant Application Discussion**

- -The Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council announced the availability of their 2021 Community Grants.
- The Program aims to engage municipalities and local organizations in protecting the rivers' resources and building strong local stewardship of the rivers.
- submitted thru the SB since we hadn't been appointed. Awards anticipated early in May
- sought training for committee members, supplies and hiring a grad student or intern to create a mgt plan for 1 of 3 sites in town.

### **5. Getting Grounded / Setting Priorities -**

- what list should we use for Pepperell invasive plants? There are several available; Pat will develop one for next week.
- research and decide on mapping and apps - not discussed in depth
- collaborate with other committees/groups on related topics (CCC, Cons Comm, NCT, Groton Invasive plant group)
- Covid impacts - in person meetings, vaccine status, comfort and safety level- most indicated that they would be comfortable with outdoor/masked training provided by Pat. Deb will share email list with everyone. this may be done in small groups of 2-3 people at a time. Pat is outdoors daily and can be flexible.
- Would Pat be willing to take us out in the field to do ID training - yes
- is anyone only interested in specific work/tasks - need to revisit
- do we want to form sub-groups with specific focus topics; will revisit as we evolve
- other ideas - Annette mentioned creating a booklet that would be mailed out to residents (vs just posting on social media or website). The thought is that many folks would not go to the website or FB, but will read their mail. Subject would be on invasives along with alternative native plants. Also, could leave at trailheads and distribute at other public venues.

### **6. Matters That May be Raised That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated - none**

### **7. Set Next Meeting Date**

- April 21, 7 PM - If anyone has agenda items send to Deb no later than Apr 16

### **8. Actions:**

- - Pat - create starter list of Pepperell Invasives
- - All - look at Groton Invasive Plant Committee website
- - Deb - share everyone's contact info with group