



## Invasive Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees: Evan Worth, Emily Boeing, Annette Cate, Deb Fountain

1. Review/approve Meeting Minutes for 9/15/21 - approved unanimously
2. Action Item review - complete; no changes
3. Website update - no changes this week

### 4. Groton Subcommittee EddMaps Training

Data that Tom Mirabile input to EddMaps has not yet been verified, so it was not available for his use in completing his report. He has found a workaround, but this will be an ongoing problem for us as we move into mapping the town next year. There are a limited number of verifiers for EddMaps entries and the developers suggested that we sign up one or two people to be trained as verifiers. Pat and Deb are interested. If anyone else is, let Deb know.

### 5. Fall Fest review discussion

What worked well - Members felt that there was great interest shown by residents who visited our tent. The kids crafts were great, and keeping them busy with the crafts allowed their parents time to chat with the members. Giveaway seeds went well; lots of colored photos/posters were good selling points for natives. All members experienced, good positive discussions with residents. Great idea to put the QR code on our literature to direct people to our website--lots of people took cards.

What can we do better? Limit the number of invasive samples to one each and keep them separate - labeling was an excellent idea, but the bounty made it hard to distinguish some of them from others. Need to find a good response when people advocate the beauty of invasives in their yards, and their desire to keep them. Deb suggested using Pat's comment to one person that if they want to keep them without the fear of spreading, to cut them back when they flower.

### 6. Strategic Plan brainstorming session

Committee discussion on moving forward with our work in the year ahead. These comments will be used to create our strategic plan. Following are comments from members:

- Can't have too much education - people are interested - continue with this to bring it to the residents - one of the best uses of our time
- Change committee name - focus not just on invasives but naturalizing / beautifying Pepperell with native plants. Events helped people see who we are - keep up with publicity and focus on how to get more helpers.
- Plan another public place for a small plant pull - make it visible for residents.

- Continue with a mix of education and events - digging in the dirt is satisfying and a good way to foster shared learning/experiences. Look for more opportunities next year - but be reasonable with our expectations.
- Frequency of meetings - Consensus was to move meetings to twice a month.
- Mapping public properties - how to do it, and how to get help. Consider high school students learning session and then mapping assigned areas for community service hours. Gardening clubs at Nashoba tech and NMRHS.
- Pursue grants or budget for restoration.
- Public Awareness - consider hosting a library program on invasives or natives .
- Address Master Plan recommendations that address native plants.
- Increase volunteer base - consider scouts, school groups, NPs, garden clubs, Groton Invasive species committee.
- Increase committee size? Consensus was that our current size is working, but if there is interest, we could go as high as 8-10 members, but no more.

#### 7. Matters That May be Raised That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated

Tom submitted the final draft of his report; Deb to distribute for comments. Please review carefully, and especially focus on your thoughts about his recommendations.

#### 8. Set Next Meeting Date - Sept 29 - focus will be a discussion on Tom's report, feedback, and Q&A's.

### **New Actions from this meeting**

- All - read Tom's report and be prepared to discuss at next meeting so we can finalize this item.
- Deb - distribute report to all and list of leftover native seeds

### **Ongoing Action Items**

- Committee Charge Actions Items toward Goals and Strategies: By the end of the first year of existence, the Committee shall:
  1. Provide the Select Board with a strategic plan to
    - assess and document invasive plant issues on public land,
    - develop detection and reporting process for private land owners,
    - create a list of invasive plants in town to compare with the state list (complete)
    - recommend appropriate remediation approaches (complete)
    - identify associated resource issues and sources for remediation actions,
  2. Educate homeowners, businesses, and the agricultural community on the importance of using native plantings. (In process)
    - establish a web presence with educational material concerning invasive plants and native plantings for residents. (In process)
    - Work with local landscapers / garden centers to promote native plantings (plan for winter)