



Invasive Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday Feb 23

Time: 7:00 PM, Location: REMOTE

Attendees: Deb Fountain, Pat Rice, Annette Cate, Emily Boeing, Juliana Molina, and guest Marc Basti

1. Review/approve Meeting Minutes for Feb. 9
2. Action Item review (see below)
3. Final review of IPMP.

Agreed on minor organizational changes to the document. Discussed update from Transfer Station; that there will be a special area for the disposal and periodic burning of invasives. This will be a pit lined with asphalt so as to discourage soil contamination, for use by town residents. Pat advised to cross-reference the grant we received to fund Tom's report. Finalization of document was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. Discussed presenting document to the Select Board.

4. Earth Day Event Planning

Finalized date approved by library (April 23) and discussed possible times (tentatively 10-2). Discussed various events such as Monarch Waystation Certification signs (ordered by Deb, and approved by the library and other town locations), tree planting, and nature walks. Pat will tentatively lead invasive identification walks, and will tag plants and trees in advance; Annette will lead walks for kids, and make booklets for nature identification. Deb will package seeds for a native seed giveaway. Other items discussed were a childrens' interactive art project, and possibly involving Girl Scouts with a Fairy House activity.

Planning will continue next meeting.

5. Keyes Parker Event Planning

Marc shared insights about coordinating with the DPW, and members brainstormed solutions to issues involving deer eating the new plants. Deb shared research about solutions to keep the new seedlings watered. Discussed advertising event at Earth Day Event, and providing information and a volunteer sign-up sheet.

6. Other matters briefly discussed were the upcoming Mixed Use Overlay plan for Pepperell... will INPAC have a role? Also briefly discussed the culverts mapping project; the grant for this was not yet awarded, so discussion will continue when officially awarded. Also discussed the possibility of INPAC having its own Facebook page for announcements and general information.

7. Set next meeting date – March 9

All - By the end of the first year of existence, the Committee shall:

1. Provide the Select Board **by spring 2022** 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. (**complete, and ongoing**)
 - Work with local landscapers / garden centers to promote native plantings (on hold)