



## Invasive & Native Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM, Location: REMOTE

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

### 1. Meeting Minutes Review - Mar 9th and March 23rd

- unanimously approved

### 2. Action Item review: Deb - draft letter for landscapers - on hold

### 3. Keyes-Parker Property Project

Marc: progress update: described work done already, new biodegradable materials used, signage placed, and new areas explored. Discussed chipping as possible method to prevent future growth. Deb will research issue about alleopathic characteristics of some invasives being problematic if we use as mulch.

Earth Day Work Crew: Deb plans to reach out to a few people to assist with earth day crew. Marc to discuss with Rob and follow up with Deb about hours/details

### 4. Wild & Scenic Stewardship Committee Grant Award

Two applications received for GIS mapping project, Tom Miralbe and Sreeja Vinod and distributed to members in advance for review. Committee discussed and by vote unanimously approved to select Tom Miralbe, based on EdMaps experience, local expertise of plants, and previous experience doing similar work

### 5. Earth Day Event - April 23rd

- Reviewed attached planning document.
- Discussed materials needed including folding table which Deb and Annette will bring and Deb to coordinate with Emily around picking up invasives binder
- Pat discussed IDing plants and providing handouts

Plan to do a trail/kids area cleanup prior to April 23rd - possibly Tues, Wed or Sat (12th, 13th or 16th.

### 6. Facebook group page/website discussion

- Deb provided updates on our new Facebook Group
  - "GreenPepperell" was launched on April 5th
  - 120 members have joined to date. Deb, Annette and Emily are Admins for the Group.
  - All group member postings are reviewed and approved by one of them prior to it being posted on the Group site. Rules are in place. Showed the FB features on shared screen. Will be posting Invasive and Native Plants of the week, as well as other sustainable living memes and tips.
  - Susan Edwards will be adding posts also. Working to encourage members to post their own tips, questions, etc, and a few have already.

- Discussed whether or not we want to create a document to keep in our files section of local businesses who provide services on sustainable living- this would not be an endorsement, but just a directory
  - discussed potential ethical issues to explore, Deb to follow up

Discuss the website "GreenPepperell - Juliana provided training update and overview.

- Juliana discussed training and next steps for the website

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

A. Freedom's Way National Heritage Area invited Lawrence Library to participate in this year's **Hidden Treasures Festival of Nature, Culture, & History**, a month-long celebration of the remarkable people, places, and objects related to the Heritage Area's 45 communities. Throughout May, Hidden Treasures curates an immersive mixture of online and physical events and activities hosted by our partners. This collection of creative offerings showcases the landscape, traditions, and stories of the uniquely American region that is the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

The Library invited Nashoba Conservation Trust, INPAC, Ag Commission and Climate Change Committee to brainstorm an event for Pepperell. A small group met last week to discuss. Since the Cons Comm already had their annual Breakfast with the Birds event planned for May 15th, we decided to expand on the theme. The plan is to tag onto Breakfast with the Birds and have brunch with the library bird collection (still working on a name), also offer the bird collection virtually with the stunning photos Ken did many years ago and a children's bird themed story walk. INPAC will create a handout on native plants that attract birds. The library will be open from 10:30-12:30 on Sunday, May 15th (rain date May 22). Library is also creating a bird watching kit and book display.

B. Request from Susan Edwards to co-sponsor (meaning helping to advertise) a library event on May 19th at 7 PM via live and Zoom. Author Linda Hoffman, from Harvard MA will do readings from her memoir, *The Artist and the Orchard*. NCT is co-sponsoring and Linda is donating 20% of book sales to NCT.

Linda's story is inspiring and empowering, and can bolster our objectives for a community working together for a sustainable and resilient Pepperell. She turned Old Frog Pond Farm into the first organic pick-your-own apple orchard in the state, and in the fifteen years since, has learned what it is to grow, tend, and be a steward to a place in ongoing change. Her details the process of making a home on the farm, and learning the ways of the trees, from the practical concerns of bees, fungus, and the intricacies of pruning, as well as spiritual and metaphysical explorations.

- Voted on whether to lend our support to promote this. Committee agreed to support post on GreenPepperell Facebook but not to have committee name added to advertisement

## 8. Set next meeting date - April 20, 2022 - focus on logistics for Earth Day