



Invasive Plant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday May 4

Time: 7:00 PM, Location: REMOTE

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

1. Review/approve Meeting Minutes for April 20
2. Action Item Review... Deb will draft letter for local landscapers... on hold
3. Review of Progress at Keyes-Parker
 - a. Marc reported on successful Earth Day event.... Fence removed and taken to the dump by a large crew of hard-working volunteers. Posts still have to be removed; Tony Beattie will help.
 - b. Future plans were discussed:
 - Deb and Pat will tag invasives for removal, as well as tagging remaining natives to be preserved,
 - Multiflora will need to be cut down with hedge trimmer,
 - DPW will bring down woodchipper (multiflora must be excluded)
 - Highway department has water truck, and will use to water new plants
 - Deb will take delivery of new plants on May 17, sort and tend them at her home before planting
 - Planting days were scheduled; Saturday May 21st will be shrubs and trees, organized by Paula Terrasi and assisted by members of Trout Unlimited and Nashoba Conservation Trust. Saturday May 28th will be planting of plugs at the culverts, this will be organized by Deb with assistance by Girl Scouts and other volunteers.
 - Marc and other helpers will continue to pull invasives before the planting day, prioritizing the fence area along the trail, and the hill, the untended area for future oak trees
4. Discussion of the Transfer Station's new receptacle specific for the burning of invasive plants for use of town residents; waiting on signage to explain what is allowed/excluded
5. Discussion of Earth Day at the Lawrence library, all agreed it was a an excellent and very successful event! Pat led several natures walks, there was much interest of the invasives at the table, Deb gave out seeds and information, and there was much activity at the kids' table (30 pairs of antennae were given out) and much playing went on in the Fairy Village.
6. Juliana gave a brief overview of the new Green Pepperell website, and suggested members contribute to the "Testimonials" page

7. Deb showed recent activity of the increasingly active “Green Pepperell” Facebook page, for the benefit of members not on social media

8. Matters That Were Raised That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated:

- a. Breakfast With the Birds on May 15th. Event at library; Deb will attend and distribute information about how native plants are beneficial to birds
- b. Discussion of Weed Warrior training program adopted by CISMA in Sudbury; do we want to participate/emulate? Pat cautions about citizens pulling random plants from public lands, Paula warns that CISMA advocates for herbicide use
- c. Deb reports on White Oak Tree planted at the library, post-Earth Day
- d. The Nissitissit Middle School seeks advice/help/donations with plans for an Outdoor Classroom behind the school, are we interested? Annette, Deb and Juliana offer to volunteer with donated plants, will discuss at future meetings
- e. Reminders about EDDMaPs verifiers
- f. Paula makes last remarks on Keyes-Parker progress

9. Set next meeting date – May18

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)