

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### The Invasives Working Group (IWG) of the Belmont Land Management Committee (LMC)

Zoom Meeting of May 25, 2022, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Jeff North, Leonard Katz, Peter Grey, Radha Iyengar, Joe Hibbard

DATE: June 15, 2022

TIME: 2:31 PM

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS;**

1. Review of the last two LMC meetings – Jeff North briefly recapped the proceedings of the most recent LMC meetings, noting that Leonard Katz has been authorized to deputize volunteers to work independently to remove garlic mustard, black swallow wort and knotweed from public open spaces.

The individuals thus far authorized include, Peter Grey, Dean Hickman, Jeffry Pike, and Nancy Kougas.

Jeff North will assist Leonard by putting together a spread sheet of the authorized individuals and the species they are qualified and permitted to remove. The spread sheet will be set up to allow for the data entry of volunteer hours by individual, and the areas worked in according to the Parterre area codes. The spreadsheet will also include the May and June Saturday mornings volunteer efforts. This data will be useful in demonstrating progress, assisting with future planning and help to coordinate volunteer efforts with contractors. The IWG will maintain the data base and report periodically to the LMC.

Following the meeting Leonard Katz noted that the Parterre area codes do not address the LTH land on the west side of Mill Street. It is suggested that that land be coded as “MB” or something similar for McLean Barn site.

Joe will attend the next LMC meeting on June 2 and request that Peter Grey be authorized by the committee to independently remove glossy buckthorn, common buckthorn and oriental bittersweet.

2. Volunteer Days - Leonard noted that the Saturday sessions have made progress in the vicinity of the Mill Street parking lot, Mill Street edge, and at the Rock Meadow parking lot area. Work will continue in these areas including the McLean barn vicinity above the adjacent wetland. The group is focused on garlic mustard and black swallow wort, and is waiting for a soaking rain before going after knotweed.
3. Coordination of Volunteers with Parterre – It was noted that with the current status of Parterre’s scope, there are no planned coordination activities with volunteers in 2022 other than the buckthorn work being done by Joe Hibbard and Peter Grey. Leonard Katz will continue to communicate with Ryan Corrigan to make sure that the Saturday volunteer activities do not overlap with areas recently herbicide treated by Parterre.
4. Processes Related to Volunteer Groups – Jeff North is working with Town authorities to identify a structured process for responding in a consistent and legally responsible manner to various groups wishing to perform public service on Town open space. Jeff will report to the LMC and

Conservation Commission at their next meetings. In the meanwhile, the current waiver form will be used for volunteer days.

5. Eastern Woods – Leonard expressed interest in making the Eastern Woods a focus area for his invasive plants removal activities.
6. Tree Specialists – The Tree Specialists’ proposal for the Volunteer Day activities on April 30 included additional work for: 1.) watering of newly planted trees as necessary, 2.) Herbicide applications to manage invasive species within the Allee and for knotweed along the stone wall on Concord Avenue near the gate to LTH. This proposal was approved by the LMC on May 3, 2022. Tree Specialists is currently planning the invasive treatments for later this year.
7. Next Meeting of the IWG – June 22 was identified as the date for the next IWG meeting. June 29 was noted as a back up date if plans need to change.

Respectfully submitted 5/27/22: Joe Hibbard