

**Invasives Working Group (IWG)  
of the Land Management Committee (LMC) for Lone Tree Hill  
Meeting Minutes: September 27, 2022  
Meeting held outdoors at Lone Tree Hill**

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DATE: October 11, 2022  
TIME: 2:52 PM

IWG-LMC Members Present: Jeffrey North

IWG Members Present: Leonard Katz, Nancy Kougeas, Peter Grey, Joe Hibbard

The meeting convened at the Mill Street parking lot at 4:00 pm

Agenda items and discussion:

### **1. Update on buckthorn program**

Joe Hibbard and Peter Grey walked the group through the ongoing work on area A3. Joe indicated that buckthorn cutting in this area shall be complete by mid-October. This area is the last of the buckthorn acreage that was included in Task 5 and envisaged to be followed by Parterre for herbicide treatment. Task 5 was approved for completion and payment of \$6,660 to Parterre.

It was noted that some cleared areas in A3 will be in full sun and more vulnerable to buckthorn and other invasive species reinfestation. It was pointed out that the planting of Eastern White Pine trees similar in size to those planted in the Pine Allee could be a means of quickly establishing a native tree cover to counter reinfestation of invasives. White pine is already naturally colonizing adjacent areas uphill from A3. This is a future project that the IWG will continue to study.

### **2. Review of Parterre September work**

The group reviewed the work contracted by Parterre for 2022 and concluded that Parterre has largely completed Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 6. (Task 4 had been replaced by volunteer work, by mechanical methods, by Nancy Kougeas, also completed for this season but requiring continuing volunteer monitoring, as all knotweed work does.) After returning to apply herbicide to a few areas that were missed, the IWG concluded that the work performed is complete and satisfactory. However, we believe a modest level of control of re-sprouting invasives will be needed in the coming years.

### **3. Review of pollinator meadow - Task 3**

Given that the wildflower and warm season grasses seed mix did not perform as well as expected, Parterre will mow and re-seed this area surrounding the bicycle rack either late Fall of this year or early Spring 2023. The site is full of mugwort, ragweed, and other unintended plants. Joe Hibbard offered to use a soil test kit to understand soil quality better.

### **4. Review of volunteer work**

Nancy Kougeas explained the work she has done near Woodlands below the Meadow Edge Trail, where she has cut bittersweet and charted the extent of garlic mustard to be pulled next season.

Leonard Katz reported that, after the soaking rains he had been waiting on all season to lubricate the pulling of knotweed roots and rhizomes, these were dug and pulled to the extent possible from all old and newly found Eastern Woods sites. Many also were cut or pulled around the periphery of the extensive growth uphill into Lone Tree Hill above McLean's Bowditch parking lot to check this knotweed area's spread. He had help, especially from Nancy Kougeas and also from Dean Hickman. Recently Leonard, like Nancy, has transitioned to removing bittersweet, in Eastern Woods and recently to the right of the Red Maple Trail just past the stone wall as one enters the Red Maple Trail from the Great Meadow. (There is now a heap of stems just past the stone wall.)

## **5. Discussion of Remaining Work for 2022 season**

Joe Hibbard has led several volunteers in buckthorn removal near Judy's Trail. This effort will continue into the winter months; we have an opportunity to restore ecological health and significantly improve the aesthetic value of the edge between the Great Meadow and the Red Maple Swamp woodlands.

## **6. Discussion of Ailanthus & Norway Maple treatment proposal**

The group reviewed a draft of a plan for removing the many trees of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Norway maple trees on the conservation land. Joe explained the rationale for dividing the work into three (3) tasks and prioritizing by considering the degree of difficulty, size, and proximity to people and property. The plan will be presented to the LMC at the meeting on October 12. Preliminary discussion included the possibility of planting white pines, consistent with the forest pine-oak-hickory succession already underway, in areas that would be left open to sunlight after the removal of unwanted trees.

Submitted by Jeffrey North