

2019 *Growing Season* Action Plan: April - November Marginal Way

Most of 2018 was devoted to dealing with the damage to the Marginal Way from the March 3rd Nor'easter (three more Nor'easters followed in the same month). Astronomical high tides, 50 MPH on-shore winds and storm surge combined to rip away soil, rock, plants and undermine the asphalt paving – primarily from Little Beach south to the Cove.

The original Storm Summary Report noting 27 damaged sites was later amended to 37 sites. The Report and photographs of damage proved invaluable while working with engineers, MDEP and FEMA. As we move into the second year of repairs, the MWC and the Town will rely on advice from Walsh Engineering Assoc., Westbrook ME. Walsh has extensive experience with shoreline stabilization and understands the delicate mission to preserve the look and character of the Marginal Way, as well as reinforcing the path for safety and resilience against future storms.

The Biocontrol project, using a caterpillar (*Hypena opulenta*) that eats *only* the leaves of Black swallow-wort (BSW), will continue this year. It will take multiple years importing *Hypena* from our source (the Biocontrol Lab of University of Rhode Island) to build up a colony that will eventually have an effective impact on this serious invasive threat to our coastal landscape (and eventually the whole Town).

We will continue to monitor the length of the path for invasive species – attempting to control and eliminate them where we can, and stopping any new occurrences of familiar species (Bittersweet, Knotweed, BSW, Purple loosestrife, Barberry, Burning bush, and Phragmites) as well as finding any new invasives (Garlic mustard).

1. Treat Bittersweet along Locust Grove Access Path, down to Israel Head Rd. and from Geology Sign to Cove (inland trees south of the Footbridge).
Vines in trees along Locust Grove Lane treated.
2. June treatment of isolated BSW growth to contain spread – length of path.
Unable to schedule treatment.
3. Fronting the O'Leary property: start to clear and treat all Bittersweet on the next section of Town land north of the restored site. Plant the cleared area with native trees, shrubs and herbaceous ground covers.

Site cleared, Bittersweet treated, 150 shrubs planted, irrigation installed, mulched, & weeded. Mulched 2nd time before winter.

4. Winkler site: monitor and treat any invasive regrowth, weeds, continue to add new shrubs and herbaceous plants to fill in gaps.

No new action on this site.

5. Work with DPW, the summer crew, and hopefully an experienced person hired specifically to work on the MW 5 days a week. Train everyone to recognize the native plants we want to save, and the invasive species that are to be noted and managed.

Town crew handled normal weed-wacking, & sheering of vegetation. Presented Town Manager with a request and job description for a seasonal worker dedicated to the MW (experienced & knowledgeable) for consistent care of plant material in the future.

6. Hire local contractor for maintenance of Seaside Garden: cut down perennials in early spring, mulch & gradually add additional shrubs in south corner.

Patten Landscaping cut down garden in spring. Weeded garden in September. No new shrubs added.

7. Re-install the Biocontrol Cage for the second year along path. Release of insects will take place late spring. Site roped off and signage put up to inform the public. Volunteer citizen scientists monitor site regularly, under direction of Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

No activity this year. No obvious signs of emergence of previous years Hypena.

8. Additional plants installed at the Plaque Island. Hire local contractor to weed and maintain for neat appearance.

Trees, shrubs planted (with irrigation) where 2018 construction staging had impacted landscape.

9. At sites of 4 new retaining walls installed in 2018, backfill and install plants for erosion control where needed.

12 inches of gravel lined back of newly constructed wall for drainage, lined with landscape cloth, and topped with soil. Shrubs planted into a plastic ¾" erosion control Geomat (sourced through Walsh Engineering contractor). Sites mulched and fenced off. Patten Landscaping tasked with watering 5 sites twice a week in July & August. 200' of hose extended from abutter Cohen garage to

MW, where 300' additional hoses used to get to farthest sites at Footbridge.

10. Monitor Cedar Grove inland: create volunteer group to monitor and weed site when necessary to allow new plantings to flourish. Edge property line between Town/private land.

No activity at this site.

11. South of Cedar Grove – find and hand pick ALL Garlic mustard so this extremely invasive plant does not spread any further on the path.

Garlic mustard picked in May before seeding. BUT observed this fall that there is *still* a large spreading area of seedling.

12. 8th Annual Pod Picking Day – August TBA

Aug. 17 – 34 volunteers collected 720 lbs Swallowwort. Lunch provided by Bessie's (Jim Oliver's restaurant).

13. Prioritize next storm damage projects from Summary List to be worked on in 2019. Coordinate work with Walsh, Town officials, MDEP and FEMA.

Multiple meetings with FEMA, Walsh, & DEP. Obtained MDEP PBR permits for 12 MW sites. Obtained OGT Planning Board approval to proceed. Applied to MDEP for MRPA permits for 11 sites – waiting for approval. Waiting for FEMA to obligate funding. Projects have been grouped and prioritized, awaiting approvals before proceeding to RFP and construction stages.

14. Coordinate with Town storm repair project on Stearns Rd at Lighthouse. MWC will provide input on revetment design. Work with KKWW at that time to obtain a water source for plants to be installed along revetment.

Design of storm drain/street design at Stearns Rd/Lighthouse by CMA Engineers will coordinate with Walsh Eng. for the new revetment. Have spoken with Special Project Manager and new head of DPW Tom Torno about water source issue for South revetment. Irrigation problem will be addressed as larger project progresses.

Joan Griswold 1.14.2019

Summary

11.24.19

Chair, Marginal Way Committee