

Received

JAN 23 2013

Town of Granville, MA

WISP

Westfield River Watershed
Invasive Species Partnership

December 14, 2012

Dear Select Board, Conservation Commission, and Open Space Committee Members,

Thank you in advance for your time and attention! We at the Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership wish to better protect our natural communities by identifying representatives from your community to serve as a liaison with our partnership. As we are aware of the time commitment involved in your positions, we are not attempting to recruit current members of your boards and committees.

Rather, we are hoping for your assistance in identifying community members who you feel might be interested in becoming involved.

WISP is a group of organizations and individuals concerned about the threat of invasive plants in the Westfield River Watershed. Invasive species (including insects like the Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and plants such as Garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, and Glossy buckthorn) negatively impact our native plant and animal communities. These impacts result from competition for light and water, predation on native plants, and alteration of soil chemistry. The damage to our native species and habitats can be long-lasting and expensive to mitigate. The goal of our partnership is to promote cooperative efforts to manage invasive species and protect native habitats in the watershed, through education, early detection, eradication, and management.

Currently, our steering committee has representation from The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Trustees of Reservations, Westfield State University, Westfield Wild and Scenic, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and United States Fish and Wildlife, among others. We have found that community involvement is essential in discovering new invaders before they damage native habitats and become expensive to remove or control. Establishing a base of town-level liaisons will help us and your town to effectively protect the native habitats within the watershed. **We sincerely appreciate any suggestions or nominations you may have.** Please respond to us via our email address: wrwisp@gmail.com or call 413-628-4485 x3.

Many thanks!

WISP Steering Committee
wrwisp@gmail.com

*****Please feel free to pass this letter along to others who may be interested.*****