

**FY 2018 JAPANESE KNOTWEED REOVAL ON  
OPEN SPACE PUBLIC LANDS  
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT**

**1.) Project Description:** Please give a detailed project description, including specific objectives.

The project will preserve existing Open Space on town lands through the removal of an invasive plant. Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is a non-native species that overtakes wetlands and buffer zones to wetland areas. It has spread throughout the North Shore. It is quite difficult to eradicate properly and improper removal can result in significant damage to wetlands, other open space areas and even spread of the plant. Wetlands professional Mike DeRosa and his team have a successful program that has been used in Hamilton and other communities to harvest the knotweed and donate it to local zoos who use it as feed for giraffes. Mike's trained staff will remove the knotweed and treat the area with an organic herbicide. Use of the Town's GIS system will allow DeRosa Environmental to quickly locate town property which is infested with the plant. The plants, harvested before chemical treatment, can be frozen for use by the zoos anytime and Mike has standing requests from zoos saying they will take as much as he can provide. CPC would grant funds for FY 18 to allow the harvesting of the plant on Town land and the transport of it to zoos.

**2.) Goals:** How does this project accomplish the goals of the CPA? (See Guidelines for Project Submission for general criteria)

Removal of the plant will result in healthier town land ecosystems. Healthier ecosystems will lead to more natural diversity on open space town lands, which will significantly improve and preserve them. Removal of the plants will also improve scenic vistas throughout town.

**3. Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones? Will this be a multi-year project?

DeRosa expects to begin harvesting of the knotweed in early spring 2018. An inventory of appropriate lands for knotweed harvest can begin immediately upon approval of the project by Town Meeting. DeRosa would proceed with the project through June 30, 2020 or until all funds are spent.

**4. Budget:** Please provide a full budget including the following information, as applicable.

a. Total amount of the project cost, with itemization of major components.

Permitting: The Conservation Commission has reviewed an application for this project in the past but the permit period for that work has expired. Commission review is necessary as knotweed often flourishes in wetlands jurisdictional areas. It will be a fairly simple process to re-submit a Request for Determination (RDA) to the Commission. Their approval is highly likely. A legal notice will need to be published for the RDA, which is required. Preparing and updating the application with a more extensive set of areas for knotweed removal and attendance at Commission meetings constitutes the remainder of the permitting budget.

Cost: **\$500.00**

Labor, materials and transport: Proper removal of the knotweed requires expertise and will be provided by DeRosa Environmental who will also arrange for transport of the harvested plants to the zoos. Purchase of the organic herbicide “Defender” will also be necessary. Using the Town’s updated GIS software to determine town owned areas will allow DeRosa to formulate a more extensive list of areas for knotweed removal than in past applications CPC.

Cost **\$7,000.00**

**TOTAL budget: \$7,500**

- b. Additional funding sources. Please include those that are available, committed, or under consideration. NONE
- c. Describe the basis for your budget and the sources of information you used.  
Costs estimates are provided by DeRosa Environmental Consulting. DeRosa has done many knotweed removal projects throughout the North Shore.

**5. Support:** Have the appropriate Town Boards and Commissions expressed support and/or approved the project? What is the nature and level of community support for this project?

The CPC has approved this project in the past and Town Meeting has voted its approval as well. This project is identical to the previously approved knotweed projects except this time it is larger in scope which will result in overall greater benefits to the Open Space public lands.