

Groton Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 18, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Present: Eileen McHugh (Conservation Commission, Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee, Trails Committee); Lisa Murray (Groton Garden Club); Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission); Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator)

Absent: Alex Woodle, Laura Moore

Eileen McHugh called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Agenda Items

A. A deeper dive into the Open Space & Recreation Plan's Seven-Year Action Plan

The Commission again examined sections 8 and 9 of the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. A few highlights for this discussion included:

E. McHugh shared that the Committee may want to explore an open-source web platform that connects people of Groton on matters of stewardship.

O. Lathrop emphasized the need for 'boots on the ground' and stressed that this would be the type of project he thinks would be most interesting to people or potential volunteers.

A. Eliot comments that email could be used as an effective means of engaging with educators. She also stated that the Committee should focus on addressing economic development opportunities when working to engage with people coming to Groton to enjoy its open spaces.

A discussion ensued about volunteer tracking and how this is critical for grant and CPA funding applications. The Stewardship Committee could help other groups track hours by providing resources like tracking sheets and offer instruction on how to use these. This, in turn, would allow the Committee a better sense of the efforts and progress being made in addressing the OSRP Action Plan.

B. Discuss committee charge and organization

The Committee agreed that it would focus on three main areas: 1.) develop outreach and networking/educational opportunities to highlight stewardship efforts across town; 2.) conduct

“boots on the ground” projects such as conservation land monitoring; 3.) continue to track the implementation of the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan goals and objectives.

C. Approve minutes for October 14, 2020 meeting

n/a

D. Conclusion and set next meeting date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

Minutes Approved: January 20, 2021