**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present**: Eileen McHugh (Conservation Commission, Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee, Trails Committee); Alex Woodle (Great Pond Advisory Committee); Lisa Murray (Groton Garden Club); Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission).

**Others Present:** Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator) – arrived at **7:15 p.m.**

**Meeting date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

E. McHugh called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Discuss work day at Priest Family Conservation Area**

O. Lathrop showed photos from the past year as well as photos from the recent work day. The Committee discussed management strategies (vista pruning), grant funding (habitat grant), the state of fighting the invasive plants on the hilltop, and general management strategy for the property (including the timing of vegetation management).

N. Gualco will reach out to the Town’s Forester to inquire if they have the ecological expertise on-staff to help evaluate the best habitat management potential for the site.

A tentative next site walk was set for June 6th.

**Land Steward Volunteers**

E. McHugh shared a list of stewards and field datasheets from the files that former Conservation Commissioners Marshall Giguere used to manage up until about 2010. The Committee discussed how the old datasheets and brainstormed ways of improving them/the data management. Outreach efforts (e.g., calls for volunteers in the local paper, quarterly newsletters) were discussed.

**Announcements & discussion, upcoming events**

N. Gualco invited the Committee members to join him and a MassDCR staff member on an inspection of the Scarlett-Gibbet Hill conservation restriction lands on Thursday, May 27.

**Approve past meeting minutes**

The Committee was not ready to approve the April minutes and these were tabled until May.

**Conclusion and set next meeting date**

The next meeting was set for June 16, 2021.

 Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by O. Lathrop, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes Approved: September 22, 2021**