**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)

**Location:** Groton Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

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

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

**Update on virtual meetings**

The group discussed the change in meeting policy and agreed mostly that their preference would be to stay remote.

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to authorize N. Gualco to write a letter to the Select Board expressing the Stewardship Committee’s preference to explore hybrid option for public meetings. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Volunteer stewardship engagement**

The committee discussed opportunities to engage volunteers in stewarding open spaces in Groton.

**Video update**

L. Murray stated that the Garden Club had approved the video project to move forward.

A. Woodle showed photos and maps of Lost Lake/Knopps Pond.

B. Hanninen showed a PowerPoint presentation for Flat Pond.

**Priest Family Conservation – considerations for mowing and poison ivy**

O. Lathrop provided an update on his discussions with two state biologists regarding a potential habitat restoration project. The desired outcome was a scrub-mix, early successional habitat with an ecotone transition between the forest and the open hill top. It was agreed to not mow the field at this time.

**Set next meeting date**

The next meeting was set for July 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Upon a motion by B. Hanninen, seconded by E. McHugh, it was voted to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Minutes Approved: September 22, 2021**