**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Eileen McHugh (Conservation Commission, Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Alex Woodle (Great Pond Advisory Committee); Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission) **– left at 7:00 p.m.**

**Absent:** Lisa Murray (Groton Garden Club); Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee, Trails Committee);

**Others Present:** Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator); Cullan McHugh (GDRHS student, volunteer)

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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

**Volunteer stewardship engagement: an update on a fillable data entry form**

Cullan McHugh presented a video he made detailing the process he followed to create a fillable PDF form for conservation property monitoring. A discussion ensued about the form and its future use.

**Elect committee officers**

Upon a motion by A. Woodle, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was VOTED to elect Eileen McHugh as Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

The group discussed that the Chair position should be held by a member of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (YES: AW, BH, AE, EM).

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by E. McHugh, it was VOTED to elect Alex Woodle as Vice-Chair of the Stewardship Committee. The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AW, BH, AE, EM).

**Update on Habitat Management Grant - Priest Family Conservation Area**

N. Gualco provided a brief update on the status of the grant application, which he reported was ready to be submitted this week ahead of the August 27 deadline.

**Discuss funding stewardship projects with CPA funds.**

N. Gualco reported that Richard Hewitt of the Community Preservation Committee had approached O. Lathrop about applying for CPA funds for the Priest Hill habitat project – just in case the state grant application isn’t funded. The committee discussed this.

Upon a motion by B. Hanninen, seconded by A. Woodle, it was VOTED to recommend to the Conservation Commission that they submit a CPC application for the Priest Hill habitat work. The motion failed due to a lack of quorum; however, the three members present voted in the affirmative \*(Yes: AW, BH, EM).

The Committee agreed that they would like to explore CPA funding opportunities for other stewardship project at future meetings.

**Update on the short-video project**

B. Hanninen showed the latest draft of his Flat Pond video materials. A discussion ensued on his next steps. A. Wood shared a brief update on the status of his Lost Lake video.

**Update on recent Conservation Commission stewardship activities.**

E. McHugh summarized projects the Conservation Commission had undertaken in the last year, which included: invasive vegetation management at Shattuck Homestead; annual field mowing; reviewing numerous applications by the Invasive Species Committee (ISC) to treat conservation properties. The Committee discussed that at a recent Conservation Commission meeting it was decided that future ISC proposals and reporting would go through Stewardship. ISC member Adam Burnette will be attending the next stewardship meeting.

**Approve meeting minutes**

Due to a lack of quorum, this item was tabled.

**Set next meeting date**

The Committee suggest to N. Gualco that he poll the rest of the Committee for a meeting date of September 22, 2021.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

**Minutes Approved: October 20, 2021**