**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

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

**Absent:** Alex Woodle (Great Pond Advisory Committee)

**Others Present:** Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator);

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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

**1. Discussion with Invasive Species Committee (ISC) member Adam Burnett**

E. McHugh introduced the agenda item and explained that the Conservation Commission (CC) would like the ISC to work with the GSC on developing a similar relation to what the Trails Committee has with CC as this would save the CC time granting permission each time the ISC wants to treat invasive species on Town land. Adam Burnett gave a presentation on what the ISC is and the type of work they do. The group discussed the ISC use of mapping to prioritize the parcels/areas that required treatment. O. Lathrop offered to draft a MOU.

**2. Review OSRP Inventory List and explore how it relates to monitoring**

N. Gualco gave a brief presentation on how the OSRP inventory list can be integrated and used in a GIS. He stated that the current GIS software is limited in its in-field application. McHugh stated that an effort to combine parcels into more recognizable areas should be made (e.g., the numerous parcels in “the Throne”). A discussion ensued about software needs as they pertain to monitoring and database management.

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by L. Murray, it was:

VOTED to authorize N. Gualco to discuss with the Land Use Director and Town Manager the purchase of an ESRI GIS license and related accessory purchases for the purpose on monitoring Town parcels and maintain a GIS open space database.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM, OL).

**3. Update on Habitat Management Project - Priest Family Conservation Area**

N. Gualco reported that the Commission plans to pursue a CPA application for the Priest Hill Habitat Management proposal. A discussion ensued about the use of the Conservation Fund for this type of purpose. Gualco reported that he is researching this and expects the CPC to help answer this question somewhat during their review of the proposal.

**4. CPA funding opportunities for other projects**

This item was tabled.

**5. Update on the short-video project**

L. Murray showed maps of the various properties the Garden Club maintain/manage. B. Hanninen presented a new slide that explains what a kettle hole is and how they are created.

**6. Approve meeting minutes**

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for April 21, 2021.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM; Abstain: OL)

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for May 19, 2021.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM, OL).

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for June 16, 2021.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM, OL).

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for July 21, 2021.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM, OL).

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Hanninen, it was:

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for August 25, 2021.

The motion failed to secure a majority vote (Yes: EM, BH; AE; Abstain: OL, LM,) and was tabled to the next meeting.

**7. Set next meeting date**

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to be held virtually. The Committee discussed adding standing site walks ahead of future meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by L. Murray, it was:

VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, BH, EM, LM, OL).

**Minutes Approved: October 20, 2021**