**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); Alex Woodle (Great Pond Advisory Committee)

**Others Present:** Anna Wilkins (North County Land Trust); Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator)

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** January 19, 2022

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

1. **Committee updates**

A. Eliot announced that the Park Commission withdrew its CPC application. L. Murray announced that the speaker for the Garden Club annual public lecture will be discussing native plants and pollinators. A. Woodle updated on an upcoming GPAC meeting. O. Lathrop updated the Committee on the Invasive Species Committee’s pursuit of funding. B. Hanninen asked questions and expressed concerns about tree clearing at the Priest Family Conservation area and owl habitat.

1. **Discuss Stewardship Committee Role in Conservation Summit**

A. Wilkins introduced herself and the work that the North County Land Trust (NCLT) does, specifically how it pertains to land conservation and stakeholder engagement. The Committee asked questions and discussed whether NCLT will participate in the upcoming Conservation Summit.

1. **Discuss grants and other funding opportunities for stewardship activities**

N. Gualco gave an update on a discussion he had with the Nashua River Watershed Association on the possibility of creating a regional circuit rider specific to CR monitoring. As the NRWA will be pursuing this effort, Gualco reported needing to write a statement of need, which he plans to submit by the end of the week.

1. **Discuss naming a conservation property in honor of the Nipmuc tribe.**

The Committee reviewed an email by Select Board Chair Becky Pine inquiring if the Conservation Commission would be interested in re-naming one of its properties in honor of the Nipmuc tribe. The Committee discussed this for some time and ultimately made the following motion based on the lack of information about whether this was an idea supported by members of the Nipmuck tribe:

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

VOTED to recommend to the Conservation Commission to not take this item up at this time.

**The motion based by a roll call vote (Yes: OL, AW, LM, AE, EM; Abstain: BH).**

1. **Update on the short-video projects**

A. Woodle gave an update on the state of his Sargisson Beach video. The Committee reviewed the latest script and provided comments.

1. **Approve meeting minutes**

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

VOTED to approve and release the minutes for December 15, 2021 as amended.

**The motion carried by a roll call vote (Yes: BH, LM, AE, EM; Abstain: OL, AW).**

1. **Set next meeting date**

The Committee set the next meeting date for February 16, 2022

1. **Adjourn**

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

VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

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

**Minutes approved: February 16, 2022**