**NCLTGroton 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);

**Others Present:** Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator); Residents: Deb Collum, Lisa Theall, Kim Kuliesis.

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** April 20, 2022

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

**Committee updates**

Deb Collum introduced herself and expressed her interests in joining the Stewardship Committee. O. Lathrop shared that the invasives species committee has applied for and was awarded a Wild and Scenic grant to treat Japanese knotweed by the Campbell well site and town land along the Nashua River. This includes funding to add a second applicator license. L. Murray shared that the Garden Club is preparing for their annual plant sale. A. Eliot stated concern for the lack of papers pulled for the three vacant Park Commission positions. B. Hanninen shared that Earth Removal/Stormwater is looking at the large amount of proposed earth removal associated with the Florence Roche Elementary School project.

**Partnering with NCLT on planning an education event directed at landowners.**

The Committee discussed what would be required and what steps should be taken to host an educational event to provide information to land owners on how they can best conserve their properties. A. Eliot shared that North County Land Trust would be a great source of assistance organizing this event. A discussion ensued about ways to partner with NCLT and how to improve collaboration between Town boards when matters of larger-scale developments. A. Eliot recruited D. Collum to meet with Anna Wilkins of NCLT to discuss how to move these ideas forward. O. Lathrop commented that this idea was reminiscent of a Woods Forum, an outreach event shared at the UMass Keystone, and suggested A. Eliot contact Paul Catanzaro as a resource.

**Review of Special Projects, Priest Conservation Area**

N. Gualco provided an update on the status of logging/field clearing at Priest Hill: the majority of the work is now complete. E. McHugh shared that she observed that there were still many stumps present that needed to be grinded. This, she continued, plus the significant amount of larger diameter slash in some locations was disheartening as it doesn’t appear the field is in the condition described in the contract signed between the logger and the Commission. A discussion ensued about next steps required to complete work associated with the MassWildlife Habitat Grant. The Committee scheduled a site walk in conjunction with the Commission on April 23, 2022.

**Update on monitoring equipment**

N. Gualco shared that this week he received the ESRI license for Arc GIS.

**Discuss membership recruitment**

The Committee reviewed and discussed its charge. Lisa Theall and Kim Kuliesis introduced their selves and expressed their interest in joining the Committee. The Committee discussed the number of members and agreed to increase the size from seven to nine.

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

VOTED to recommend the Conservation Commission appoint Deb Collum, Lisa Theall, Kim Kuliesis to the Stewardship Committee and to expand the number of Committee members from seven to nine.

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

**Outreach Update, Videos**

L. Murray shared that he has an audio track selected for her video. The Committee discussed the possibility of showing the Sargisson Beach video Alex Woodle produced at Town Meeting.

**Update on recent changes at Hayes Property**

N. Gualco reported that the developer has proposed a change to the plan, which removed the conservation restriction and replaces it with an in-fee holding. This increases the open space owned by the Town from approx. 35 acres to approx. 60 acres. Gualco continued and stated that there are a few details being worked still between the developer and the Commission including a restriction on the amount of public access on the open space parcel closest to Maple Ave.

**Approve meeting minutes**

N/A

**Set next meeting date and discuss in person or virtual meetings**

The next meeting date was set for May 18, 2022 to remain virtual.

**Adjourn**

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

 VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

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

**Minutes Approved: May 18, 2022**