**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Eileen McHugh, Chair (Conservation Commission); Lisa Murray, Vice-Chair (Groton Garden Club); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission); Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee); Kim Kuliesis; Deb Collum; Lisa Theall (President, Groton Garden Club)

**Absent:** Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, Conductorlab Oversight Committee)

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

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** August 24, 2022

E. McHugh called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

# Committee updates

O. Lathrop reported that the Invasive Species Committee (ISC) is working with the Park Commission on a project at the Carol Wheeler Park in West Groton. The invasive species removal will involve the filing of an RDA, which O. Lathrop has offered to help with. L. Theall commented that a Garden Club Member initiated this project, but the project scope was beyond that of the Garden Club’s focus at the park and therefore the Park Commission/ISC have taken the lead.

# Update of the revision to the regulations for use of conservation land

E. McHugh shared that at she shared the revised regulations with the Conservation Commission on July 12 and received back comments on adding language the specifically includes electric motors to the list of prohibited vehicles. The Commission pushed back on this point and has opted to revisit the topic if and when it becomes a problem. A discussion ensued among Committee members on this topic as well as the format in which the revised would be shared with the public. Next steps include beginning the process of updating the regulations on the website as well as creating a design (to include a QR code that links to the regulations) to eventually be printed on small stickers. These stickers would be installed at trail heads and on existing trail posts. L. Theall offered to mock up a design for the sticker and N. Gualco said he would begin the process of updating the website.

# Special Topic: pesticides/herbicides and how they are regulated

L. Murray introduced the discussion topic by recapping a recent experience she had with a mosquito spray applicator. L. Murray stated she was concerned of chemical drift (a.k.a. chemical trespass) as the solution the applicator was spraying appeared to be entering her property via the wind. Murray explained that she contacted the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) reporting hotline and discussed this issue. MDAR reported that their hands are somewhat tied during these types of issues. A discussion ensued among the Committee members on the role the Committee could help plan regarding outreach and education on this topic. K. Kuliesis offered to reach out to the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) about this and report back to the Committee her findings.

# Discuss feedback on land monitoring survey forms

N. Gualco gave an update on the ArcGIS Survey123 survey he created and highlighted how data captured in it is handled on ArcGIS Online.

# Update - turtle nesting area management

N. Gualco gave an update on the effort to assess the management needs of the turtle nesting areas the Commission is responsible for. He highlighted a recent site walk to Academy Hill, which he took with K. Kuliesis. K. Kuliesis shared her observations about the inventory of native plants on the site. A discussion ensued about next steps, which will involve N. Gualco, K. Kuliesis, and D. Collum continuing to visit the remaining two nesting sites.

# Review of Special Projects (Priest Hill, Shattuck Homestead, other Conservation Areas)

n/a

# Outreach Update, Videos

n/a

# Approve meeting minutes

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

VOTED to accept and release the meeting minutes for July 20, 2022 as amended.

**The motion carried by a roll call vote: (YES: KK, DC, AE, LM, LT, EM; Abstain: OL)**

# Set next meeting date

The next meeting date was set for September 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be virtual.

# Adjourn

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

VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

**The motion carried by a roll call vote (YES: KK, DC, AE, LM, LT, OL, EM).**

**Minutes Approved: December 7, 2022**