**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Eileen McHugh, Chair (Conservation Commission); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission); Deb Collum.

**Absent:** Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee); Kim Kuliesis; Lisa Theall (President, Groton Garden Club); Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, Conductorlab Oversight Committee); Lisa Murray, Vice-Chair (Groton Garden Club).

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

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** October 12, 2022

**NOTE**: A quorum was not obtained for this meeting. The Committee choose to discuss various agenda items, but no actions were taken. This document represents a summary of notes taken on the Committee’s discussion. For a recording of the meeting, please see the Groton Channel’s website: <http://schedule.thegrotonchannel.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/9905?channel=5>

**Committee Updates**

Bruce Easom reported on the Sustainability Commission’s tire cleanup efforts including the planning for site restoration along Wrangling Brook near the intersection of Hill Road and West Main Street. BE estimated approximately 250 tires were present either in the wetland or within the buffer zone. Kim Kuliesis has served as the project proponent and will be responsible the permitting requirements with the Conservation Commission.

The group discussed fundraising as the Sustainability funds would cover half of the cleanup costs. Organizations that serve as direct users (e.g., Nashoba Paddler) or stewards (e.g., Greenways Committee) were identified as groups that could be approached to help raise funds as needed. Additionally, the Committee discussed the Conservation Commission possibly offering to pay for the legal notice fee associated with the filing of the RDA.

It was stated that volunteer help would be critical for this projects success as all the work will be done by hand.

Eileen McHugh announced that Olin Lathrop will be giving a presentation at the upcoming MACC Conference on the work the Invasive Species Committee. EM continued and stated that it may be prudent to check with the Commission about their interest in providing educational training for Stewardship Committee members.

Anna Eliot reported that the Park Commission has been working a resident about tree removal near and at the Carol Wheeler Park. AE continued and stated that the CPC has been discussing the need for community organizing around CPA funded projects that have been completed but require maintenance. Under the CPA, maintenance is not a permissible use of funding. AE referenced the Duck Pond aerators and explained that the plethora of Groton-lakes groups (e.g., GLA, Mountain Lakes Assn., GPAC) may be able to provide the maintenance requirements for a project like this.

**Report from the field: turtle nesting areas**

*(Minute 34:26 from the recording)*

The present Committee members discussed this item extensively and reviewed a spreadsheet developed by DC (see attached spreadsheet).

A few highlights of the discussion included Deb Collum presented a table summary of the turtle nesting management plans for the Academy Hill, Village Meadows, and Hayes subdivisions. The information presented was extracted from the Mass DFW Conservation Management Permit for each of the developments. DC presented the differences in how the escrow accounts were created and these differences may present challenges with regards to site management. DC also presented the differences in reporting requirements as well as who was responsible to monitoring the sites after their creation. DC emphasized that the creation of the nesting sites is a requirement of the State’s Conservation Management Permit.

**Discussion on neighbor outreach/land management/succession planning**

N/A

**Review of Special Projects (LAND Grant, Priest Hill, Shattuck Homestead, open meadow management)**

Nik Gualco recalled a recent meeting he had with a Littleton resident on the topic of Native American archaeoastronomy. He would like to provide a site walk to interested members of the Conservation Commission/Stewardship Committee highlighting areas where he has discovered artifacts in Groton. NG expressed that there is a sensitivity to this information and the discussion could not get more detailed than that. The Committee expressed an interest in participating in a future site walk.

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

N/A

**Short videos - update**

N/A

**Approve meeting minutes**

N/A

**Set next meeting date**

The Committee discussed meeting on November 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

**Adjourn**

N/A