**Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Eileen McHugh, Chair (Conservation Commission); Anna Eliot (Community Preservation Committee, Park Commission); Kim Kuliesis; Bob Hanninen (Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, Conductorlab Oversight Committee); Lisa Murray, Vice-Chair (Groton Garden Club).

**Absent:** Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee); Lisa Theall (President, Groton Garden Club); Deb Collum.

**Others Present:** Ron Hersch (Groton Lakes Association); Rick Salon (Groton Lakes Association); Nik Gualco (Conservation Administrator).

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** December 7, 2022

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

**Discuss committee representation with the Groton Lakes Association (GLA)**

R. Hersch provided context on the role that GLA, a volunteer self-funded group, plays in preserving and enhancing the quality of the five lakes as well as the surrounding areas.  R. Hersch continued to describe management efforts, such as addressing the invasive vegetation, at the lakes and described the different groups who lead these various efforts.  The Committee inquired about various projects including stormwater mitigation and the spread of invasive vegetation.

**Committee updates**

K. Kuliesis provided an update on the **Tire cleanup at Wrangling Brook** work, which involves the filing of a MESA checklist.  The public hearing on the RDA is scheduled for December 13, 2022.

O. Lathrop announced that he is planning conservation talks on land preservation and on the invasive Spotted Lantern Fly.

B. Hanninen shared that the Activity and Use Limitation open meeting should occur within the next week.  This meeting is regarding the Conductor Lab.

E. McHugh shared that Destination Groton has reached out for Committee descriptions for their new website.

**Reports from the field/updates on-going projects:**

**GCT Bates Land Conservation Area** - tabled

**Short Videos – Flat Pond**

No updates

**Turtle nesting area**

D. Collum shared the worksheet she created documenting the management requirements for the three existing turtle nesting areas.  Follow-up items were identified for each nesting area. D. Collum also expressed concern with the Academy Hill site as there does not appear to have been any management or monitoring for many years.  The Committee discussed who was responsible for the management of these nesting areas, which is a requirement of the Conservation Management Permit in all three cases.

**Neighbor outreach/land management/succession planning**

D. Collum stated that the direction of this initiative has become convoluted.  D. Collum recommended the group follow the plan Paul Catanzaro described during an August phone call she, Anna, and Nik were part of.  Her notes on the discussion were shown at the meeting.  It was decided that Kim, Deb, Anna, and Nik would meet and discuss this initiative ahead of any future discussions.

**OSRP Action Plan Tracking**

N/A

**Installing conservation area signs on Town properties**

O. Lathrop made a presentation on the need to install conservation area signs at certain properties.  He also presented the current design and proposed alternatives that would save the Commission money and be easier for volunteers to install.  Finally, he suggested the naming of a newly acquired conservation parcel (part of the land owned by the late Honey Trimper) the “Martins Pond Conservation Area.”

 Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by K. Kuliesis, it was:

VOTED to grant O. Lathrop authority to obtain the necessary permissions to install signs at  the Patricia Hallet, Fitch-Best, and Priest Family Conservation Areas with the final location of the Hallet sign be with coordination with the Town Planner and Conservation Administrator.

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

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by L. Murray, it was:

VOTED to recommend to the Conservation Commission to approve the metal sign design that includes a graphic and to purchase one metal sign as a test.

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

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by D. Collum, it was:

VOTED to recommend to the Conservation Commission that parcel 224-18 (former Trimper land along Martins Pond) be named the “Martins Pond COnservation Area.”

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

**Approve meeting minutes and set next meeting date**

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

VOTED to approve and release the meeting minutes for August 24, 2022, September 21, 2022, and November 16, 2022 as amended.

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

**Adjourn**

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by D. Collum, it was:

VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

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

**Minutes Approved: February 1, 2023**