



Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes

Present: Lisa Murray (Chair); Eileen McHugh (Vice-Chair); Anna Eliot; Olin Lathrop;

Absent: Kimberly Kuliesis; Deborah Collum; Ronald Hersch; Bob Hanninen.

Others Present: Charlotte Steeves (Conservation Administrator); Paul Funch (Trails Committee)

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

When: December 20th, 2023

There was no quorum for the meeting and therefore, no votes were taken. There was a discussion on the Brown Loaf land which is summarized below:

Mass Wildlife wanted to put a CR on the land, but the Town decided to not accept the CR offer. This was mainly due to opposition from groups that wanted continued use of the land for mountain bikes and horses. These activities would have been limited if there was a CR on the land from MassWildlife.

The wetland areas are sensitive and need to be protected and Mr. Funch believes this should be done by the Conservation Commission. He said the land is of high conservation value but is being degraded by repeated use of motorized vehicles. He believes this should be brought under control or monitored, possibly through a subdivision of the land. He said ideally, ConComm would accept part of the parcel as conservation land and maybe the Town can keep other areas open for horses and motorized bikes. The area under the powerlines could have another use. Some of the land could also be held or reserved for land swaps under Article 97, which is the Public Lands Preservation Act.

Mr. Funch recommended that the Stewardship and Conservation committees determine which trails should be enhanced or improved. The idea would be to maintain one trail connecting the Lost Lake area.

No votes were taken during this meeting

Minutes Approved: January 17th 2024