



### **Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Lisa Murray, Chair; Olin Lathrop; Kimberly Kuliesis, Vice Chair; Anna Eliot.

**Absent:** Ronald Hersch

**Others Present:** Charlotte Steeves (Conservation Administrator); and the following members of the Groton Sustainability Commission: Phil Francisco, Linda Loren, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Bruce Easom, Sue Fitterman, Pat Parker-Roach.

**This meeting was a joint meeting between the Stewardship Committee and the Sustainability Commission**

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** December 18th, 2024

**6:30 PM L. Murray called the meeting to order**

#### Committee Updates

The Stewardship Committee invited Sustainability Commission members to this Zoom meeting to discuss the possible expansion of the Pollinator Pathway located behind The Groton Center at 163 West Main Street and to discuss creating additional Pollinator Pathways on conservation land in Groton.

Some key points from the discussion include:

- That the Sustainability Commission would coordinate with the Stewardship Committee/Conservation Commission, Groton Conservation Trust, Conservation Administrator C Steeves and others as necessary to prioritize a list of potential properties for extending the Pollinator Corridor. No new work would be done until a proposed sequence of properties is agreed upon by all parties.
- That the Sustainability Commission would work with the above parties to prepare a planting and maintenance plan for any properties where we intend to extend the corridor. This is important to minimize weeds and especially invasives from taking over the planting areas before initiating any further plantings.
- That everyone involved does their best to absolutely limit the amount of soil disruption (including not rototilling and/or adding soil amendments) wherever possible and instead lean into planting native plugs raised from seeds (or sowing seeds where that makes sense).

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- That we all ensure that the plants selected for certain areas are matched to the micro-ecosystem where we intend them.
- Some members of the Stewardship Committee are very opposed to tree cutting on the properties, so shade-tolerant plant species should be considered.
- The Stewardship Committee is looking at the newly acquired Palmer property near the Senior Center in West Groton as a possible area to extend the Pollinator Pathway.

K Kuliesis provided the URL of a non-profit organization that specializes in hyper-locally appropriate plants/plugs as well as an offer to help us with the planning and the planting.

O Lathrop offered to be a first “sounding board” on identifying the list of potential target areas to focus on.

Two Sustainability Commission interns from Groton-Dunstable Regional High School who will begin work in early/mid-January to research potential locations for Pollinator Pathways on town-owned land. The interns will connect with O Lathrop and C Steeves to discuss their first steps in data collection and to get help in framing their work.

L Murray left the meeting at 7:30 PM

**Adjourn**

**There was no quorum at the time the meeting ended, so there was no official vote to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:37 PM.**

**Minutes Approved: 4/16/25**