



## **Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Lisa Murray, Chair; Olin Lathrop; Anna Eliot; Kimberly Kuliesis (joined at 6:36 PM)

**Absent:** Ronald Hersch

**Others Present:** Charlotte Steeves (Conservation Administrator)

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**When:** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**6:30 PM L. Murray started the meeting.**

**K. Kuliesis joined the meeting at 6:36 PM.**

### Meeting Summary:

The Committee discussed the disposition of parcel A at 63 Gratuity Road and the potential Bordering Land Subject to Flooding on the parcel.

K Kuliesis said that she is working to develop a mowing schedule for some of the parcels owned by the Conservation Commission.

C Steeves said that the Conservation Commission has given the Stewardship Committee jurisdiction to create mowing plans for each parcel which would include recommendations for the height of the blade of the mower, the optimal time to mow for pollinators and other species, and invasive plants. She said that the mowing schedule might require input from local pollinator experts. She said the first step would be to put together a list of the parcels that are mowed.

O Lathrop and K Kuliesis said they would put together the list of parcels.

O Lathrop said that there are some parcels where there are already established management plans. For example, the Commission usually performs a turtle sweep at Nipmuc Meadows in early to late July before the parcel is mowed. He said he also goes around the perimeter of the parcel to spray for any black swallowwort that might be growing in places where the mower can not reach. The field is then sprayed at the end of summer and early fall for invasive swallowwort before the parcel is mowed again.

L Murray suggested that the Committee keep the mowing project as an 'Ongoing Project' on the agenda for each meeting.

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C Steeves said that she has observed a lot of invasive plants during the Stewardship site walks.

O Lathrop said that the Invasive Species Committee has already committed to eliminating the oriental bittersweet at the Best-Fitch parcel in the spring

A Eliot suggested that abutters and neighbors could get involved.

The Committee discussed applying for a Wild and Scenic grant to restore Carol Wheeler Park with native plants.

O Lathrop suggested that the Parks Commission could take the lead on the grant application since the land is owned by the Parks Commission.

A Eliot said that she thinks it would be better for the Stewardship Committee to coordinate efforts among multiple committees in town.

L Murray said that someone would need to determine the logistics of the project and who would be involved.

A Eliot said that she would ask to put this topic on the upcoming Park Commission agenda.

The Committee approved the meeting minutes from May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via roll call vote. The motion to approve the minutes was made by A Eliot and seconded by K Kuliesis.

**K Kuliesis, yes; A Eliot, yes; O Lathrop abstained; L Murray, yes.**

The Committee set the next meeting date for 2/19/25 at 6:30 PM.

**Adjourn**

**A Eliot made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by K Kuliesis.**

**Roll call vote: A Eliot, yes; K Kuliesis, yes; O Lathrop, yes; L Murray, yes.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.**

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