



GROTON STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

June 25, 2025 – 6:30 PM

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- **Present at the meeting:**
 - Lisa Murray – Chair of the Stewardship Committee
 - Charlotte Steeves – Conservation Administrator/Stewardship Committee
 - Olin Lathrop – Conservation Commission/Invasive Species Committee/Stewardship Committee
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2. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD:

Site Walk Updates

- A discussion was held regarding the recent Nipmuc Meadows site walks. It was noted that two site walks were scheduled, including one on June 14th, and that no abutters or members of the public attended either walk. Committee members confirmed that notification letters had been sent to abutters. It was suggested that the lack of attendance may have been related to scheduling conflicts, including other community events occurring on those dates.
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3. ON-GOING PROJECTS

Mowing and Turtle Sweep

- Members discussed the upcoming mowing at Nipmuc Meadows, which usually occurs in early July. Prior to mowing, a turtle sweep will need to be done with as many volunteers as possible. It was noted that the timing of the turtle sweep will depend on the mower's availability.

- The committee discussed options to recruit volunteers for the turtle sweep, including contacting the Invasive Species Committee, Conservation Commission, and Stewardship Committee members, as well as broader public outreach. It was suggested that information be shared through the Groton email list and potentially posted on the Town's Facebook page once the date is confirmed.

Signage Updates

- An update was provided on conservation land signage. Several new signs have been made and are currently held by the Trails Committee. Installation is pending approval from the Sign Committee, as required before placement.
- It was also noted that the sign at Meadowbrook will be replaced due to damage. As this replacement is considered maintenance, additional sign committee approval is not required.

Ames Meadow Review

- Members discussed Ames Meadow as part of the mowing project review. It was noted that the meadow has historically been mowed once per year, typically in the fall, and that Bruce Easom has completed this work in the past. One member volunteered to conduct a walk-through of the property, review available historical information, and take updated photographs for reference.

DCR Site Walks and Grassland Bird Habitat

- An update was shared on recent DCR site walks conducted at Scarlett Hill, Gibbet Hill, and Groton Center Farms. No major encroachments were observed. However, nesting grassland birds, including bobolinks and savannah sparrows, were documented.
- Discussion followed regarding mowing schedules and the potential impact on nesting birds. It was noted that delaying mowing until mid-July may allow chicks to fledge, though members acknowledged the challenges this presents for farmers whose livelihood depends on hay production. Information about available Audubon programs was shared, though it was noted that the enrollment deadline had passed for the current season.
- Members agreed that providing educational information to land managers remains valuable, even when timing adjustments are not practical.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

Scheduling Updates

- The committee agreed to return to its regular meeting schedule. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Membership and Renewals

- Brief discussion was held regarding upcoming term renewals. It was noted that renewals would be addressed at a future meeting. Members also discussed potential recruitment strategies and agreed to revisit the topic at the July meeting.
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5. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Rollo, Per Diem Minute Taker

Approved: March 18th, 2026