



## GROTON STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

October 15, 2025 – 6:30 PM

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The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM.

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### 1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- **Present at the meeting:**
  - Olin Lathrop – Chair of the Stewardship Committee/Conservation Commission/Invasive Species Committee/Stewardship Committee
  - Kim Kuliesis – Conservation Commission/Stewardship Committee
  - Charlotte Steeves – Conservation Administrator
  - Benjamin Wolfe – Invasive Species Committee/Conservation Commission
  - Adam Burnett– Stewardship Committee

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### 2. COMMITTEE UPDATES:

#### Minutes from Previous Meetings

- It was noted that minutes from prior meetings were not yet finalized. Charlotte stated that she has been working through past minutes and that the new minute taker will be assisting with the backlog.

#### Review of Action Items

- The Chair reported that he had begun reviewing the Eliades property but did not yet have enough information to report back.
- Ben reported that he had not yet completed project description write-ups for potential student volunteers.
- It was noted that Anna had requested and received a large data file from Charlotte related to Priest Hill, Ames Meadow, and Hazel Grove.

- Adam provided an update on Farmers and Mechanics Conservation Area, outlining his plan to conduct a forest inventory using one-tenth acre fixed-radius plots distributed on a grid across the parcel.
- Kim provided an update on Carrol Wheeler Park, noting that she has not yet completed a site visit. She discussed questions around the scope of work needed at the site, including invasive species management, deferred maintenance, and long-term restoration goals. She asked if initial work should be handled through routine maintenance or folded into a future grant application focused on restoration.

### **Other Committee Updates**

- The Chair reported that the Invasive Species Committee recently completed fall knotweed treatment at Surrenden Farms and the Campbell Well site. He stated that significantly less knotweed was found compared to prior. It was noted that remaining knotweed was generally small and scattered, and that the site now shows substantial native vegetation recovery.
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## **3. ON-GOING PROJECTS**

### **Nipmuc Meadows Site Walk**

- The committee reviewed the updated Nipmuc Meadows Site Walk Report and discussed the edits.
- Members reviewed formatting, spelling, and terminology, including corrections to species names, capitalization, punctuation, and place names.
- Corrections were made to references to Baddacook Pond, and clarification was added regarding storm damage attributed to a microburst in 2019.
- Members discussed the list of land management goals included in the report and confirmed that these were drawn from standard conservation restriction language and tailored to the parcel.
- Questions included in the “Outstanding Questions” section were reviewed, including the effectiveness of prescribed burns, invasive species management strategies, and mowing schedules for meadow areas.
- It was clarified that all photographs included in the report were taken on the date of the site walk.
- A motion was made to approve the Nipmuck Meadows Site Walk Report dated September 13, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- There was brief discussion regarding if the property is subject to a Conservation Restriction or deed restriction. It was noted that clarification on restrictions across parcels remains an ongoing task.

### **Fallen Tree at Priest Hill**

- It was noted that a fallen tree is located within the meadow at Priest Hill and may interfere with mowing after November 1.
- As Anna was not present, the Chair agreed to take an action item to coordinate follow-up via email, including looping Anna into the discussion to clarify next steps.

### **Site Walk Planning**

- The committee discussed options for the next site walk.
  - Carrol Wheeler Park was identified as a priority due to upcoming grant planning and neighborhood interest.
  - The committee also discussed including the recently acquired parcel near the former Hayes Woods area to establish baseline conditions and review turtle nesting.
  - The committee agreed to hold a site walk on Saturday, November 1, 2025, beginning at 10:00 AM at Carrol Wheeler Park. Members will then proceed to the nearby conservation parcel. Administrator Steeves will notify abutters for Carrol Wheeler Park in advance.
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## **4. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

### **Action Items Review**

- Olin will continue reviewing the Eliades property and coordinate the committee email list.
  - Ben will complete project description write-ups for potential student volunteers.
  - Anna will continue reviewing Priest Hill, Ames Meadow, and Hazel Grove.
  - Adam will proceed with work at Farmers and Mechanics Conservation Area.
  - Kim will continue work related to Carrol Wheeler Park.
  - Olin will coordinate follow-up regarding the fallen tree at Priest Hill.
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## 5. ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Andrea Rollo, Per Diem Minute Taker*

*Approved: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026*