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**Sustainability Commission**

**Pollinator Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Meeting Time: 2:00 PM

Meeting Location: The Groton Center

Attendees: Jim Allen, Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chair), Sue Fitterman, Linda Loren

**Minutes:**

Called to Order at 2:03 PM

The group met to discuss the new Pollinator Pathway project.

1. **Funding**: In January 2024, Alison submitted a funding request asking the Town of Groton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for $3600 in FY2024 money to establish a new Pollinator Pathway at The Groton Center, connecting the existing Pollinator Garden to the Iceline Trail. In February, the CDC voted unanimously to accept the funding request and bring it to Town Meeting on March 26, 2024 to be voted on. If approved at Town Meeting, the funding will be available on March 27, 2024. No purchases will be made before then, and all money needs to be spent by June 30, 2024.
2. **Buying Plants**: Plants will be available in May. Alison has reserved approximately 160 native perennial plants of about 15 different varieties at the Native Plant Trust in Framingham. She will email this list to the group. The list may need to be changed based on what is available in May. Native shrubs may also be purchased through the Native Plant Trust, Bigelow Nursery in Northborough, or Central Mass Gardens in Lunenburg. The group discussed the idea of doing winter sowing in milk jugs next fall/winter to start seedlings of additional pollinator plants.
3. **Planting**: This will be done in June. Since this is a working group of the Sustainability Commission, volunteers are allowed to help. The group will think about who could help with the planting, including Groton Garden Club members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, friends and neighbors.
4. **Water**: Alison will buy soaker hoses and a timer to connect to the irrigation system that’s set up in the existing Pollinator Garden. Jim suggested buying commercial grade hoses. The group will help to set up the hoses and the timer and test out the irrigation system.
5. **Soil**: Alison sent a soil sample from the area to UMass Amherst last fall for testing and received a report stating the soil needs amendments. She will purchase the needed amendments which the group will add to the soil before planting.
6. **Site Preparation**: The area has been cleared of small trees, but it needs to be raked and cleared of grass and weeds.
7. **Design Plan**: The group will create a Design Plan for the Pollinator Pathway once all the perennials and shrubs have been purchased in May.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 2:40 PM, followed by a 20-minute site walk of the Pollinator Pathway area.

**Next Meeting: To Be Determined**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Fitterman