

**Georgetown Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM – via Zoom**

I. **Call to order and welcome. 6:33 p.m.**

II. **Determine quorum.** Present: Kathy Gravino, chair*, Aria Ee**, Roger Bogart*, Nancy Kinner*, Ruth Indrick*, Jessica Weller** [*Member / **Associate Member]. Select board member: Bronwen Tudor. Financial Advisor Committee Members (FAC): Lisa Donaldson and Julie Pankey

III. **Minutes** from the February 14, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

IV. **Annual Budget Review**

Lisa Donaldson and Julie Pankey from the FAC attended the meeting to answer any questions about the budget. Kathy sent out a 2022-23 budget proposal to the group after our February meeting. The group went over the proposed budget line by line. The one addition to the proposed budget is to create a \$500 Preserve Maintenance reserve fund to be used in case of emergencies for the Ipcar and Round the Cove properties. The money for this new reserve fund was taken out of the existing trail maintenance line of the current budget. A definition was created for this new reserve fund but Bronwen asked that it be simplified. Nancy suggested that Kathy work with Lisa and Julie to do this.

The proposed budget for 2022-23 is \$5 higher than last year's budget because of projected website maintenance costs.

Nancy motioned that the Conservation Commission approve the 2022-23 proposed budget and Aria seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

V. **Project Updates**

UNH Student Project: Georgetown Energy Working Group

Progress continues on this project at a good pace. The students have estimates for the different options and will deliver their report on Monday, May 2nd. There was discussion about having it be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option for those who can't be there in person.

Big Night(s)

Jessica has 25 volunteers signed up. She led two Zoom trainings this month to explain the project and what is needed from the volunteers. A Big Night box with safety gear has been left at Town Hall. The box also contains town waivers and some amphibian guides. Jessica visited the school on Friday, March 4th and read the book *Big Night* with the kids. The kids are very excited about the project and had lots of frog and salamander sightings to share. The book was then donated to the GCS library from the Conservation Commission. A Big Night has already taken place in some parts of CT, RI and MA, it could be any day now (maybe Saturday).

VI. **Old Business**

Climate Change Adaptation Report

Kathy, Maureen and Aria are currently working on this and hope to have it ready to distribute at Town Meeting. The adaptation will be about 4 pages, similar to the last adaptation done in 2018.

VII. **New Business**

Winter/Spring Programs

Program on Climate Change in Gulf of Maine

This program will be deferred until the fall.

Owl Prowl -

Aria Eee scheduled an Owl Prowl with KELT for Saturday, March 19th at 7:30 pm. It filled up very quickly but due to rain in the forecast it may need to be rescheduled.

Survey of Round the Cove (John Wood)

Work is underway and John is currently working on the title research. He is looking into who owned the property in the past and what they used the land for. Kathy is helping him with local research. This summer he will do the physical survey of the property.

Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grant

We will not hear back about this until after April 15th.

Musical performance at Robinhood Free Meetinghouse "All About the Kennebec."

This program is happening on April 2nd at the Meetinghouse. Carlos asked if the Conservation Commission wanted to team up for this event to help promote it and possibly say a few words before the event. Kathy suggested we advertise it on our Facebook page and send a note out to our Conservation email list. There was discussion about using it as an opportunity to create awareness about Big Night. Jessica will try to get some photos of amphibians and volunteers if there is a Big Night event this weekend.

Nancy will contact Carlos and tell him that we are interested in being involved in the event. Tickets are \$15.

The description of the event: *Through a combination of live music and synchronous film, we will reflect on our community's dependence on water as a resource, commodity, and defining feature of Maine's landscape and culture.*

VIII. **Next Meeting:** April 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

IX. **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:36p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Weller