**Georgetown Conservation Committee**

**Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

I **Call to order, welcome and introductions at 6:40pm**

II **Determine quorum:** Present: Aria Eee\*\*, Roger Bogart\*, Kathy Gravino\*, Ruth Indrick\*,

Nancy Kinner\*, Jessica Weller\* [\*Member / \*\*Associate Member]. Select board member: Bronwen Tudor

Guests: Chloe Shields (from New England EFC) and Susan Shade (resident of Georgetown)

III **Minutes from July 11, 2022, meeting were approved as written**.

**Minutes from special meeting on August 1, 2022, were approved as written.**

IV **Community Resilience Partnership** (Welcome Chloe Shield from New England EFC)

* **Discuss the CRP Virtual Community Workshop on August 4th**

Kathy thanked the people who prepared and ran the workshop. It was brought to our attention by a community member that the prioritization survey had closed last night, and Nancy said that they are working to extend the length of the survey until August 14th at 11:59pm. Kathy and Jessica shared that they are receiving great feedback and dialogue from the community since the workshop. Jessica shared the links to the workshop recording, slide deck and survey link with registrants, Jim Peavey, Singing Bridge newsletter and Amanda Campbell at Town Office.

* **Prepare for the Select Board Presentation on August 23rd**

Kathy and Jessica will meet with Chloe and Courtney tomorrow about this presentation. We plan to give the Select Board the self-evaluation form, the feedback from the community questionnaire and the list of the 8 proposed grant projects by August 18th so Amanda can include them in the Select Board packet.

Nancy asked how we are going to write up these projects and will we give the Select Board our feedback about the project feasibility and ease. She brought up project 8 as an example. Chloe shared that she reached out to her contact at the Governor’s Office who works on the program about project 8 to see if it aligns. He thinks it will be a less competitive grant proposal unless we went in with the required 10% match. Projects that are on the approved list of community actions are more likely to get approval without the match.

Ruth thinks that a 10% match would be easy to fundraise ($5,000) and thinks there are groups that we could seek out funding from so that the town would not need to be responsible for the match. Bronwen feels that the Select Board will be more willing to go for a project that helps our municipal buildings to be more energy efficient (First Church, School/Town Office) or helps with our town infrastructure. Bronwen suggested that a grant, like the aquaculture project, may be something we work on for a March application.

Nancy suggested that once the Select Board identifies the grant project, we will need to seek out others from town to help finalize the grant application and one of those people may act as the contact person.

Bronwen would like us to come to the table with two project proposals based on what we have learned in this process, feedback from the town, our Climate Adaptation Report and the Self-Evaluation.

Ruth said that we may be able to combine two projects if they equal less than $50,000 (for example a generator and a heat-pump).

Nancy suggested we give the Select Board a hardware option and a planning option. And suggested we organize a CC meeting between August 15th and August 23rd. **The commission has agreed to meet on Monday, August 15th at 6:30pm to prepare**.

Bronwen asked if we could circulate the results of the survey among the commission before the 15th so we can start planning and thinking about the Select Board proposal. Bronwen asked if we could include the First Church into our plans for municipal buildings.

* **Application Process for the State Update**

Bronwen asked questions about the application process. Chloe answered that the deadline is September 20th, and she thinks that decisions will be made mid fall. The timeline for a project can be up to two years, and the town can propose a specific start date. The application process involves a couple pages of narration with the specific tasks and a one-page budget breakdown. September 20th can be the deadline for both the grant and the partnership application.

V **Old Business**

* **Survey of Round the Cove (John Wood) – update**
  + No updates but John will be working on the survey in the fall.
* **Update on Stiltgrass**
  + Tenley from KELT will be talking with Kathy tomorrow morning about Stiltgrass. We have a very “healthy” area of stiltgrass in Georgetown near Clary Pond, near Robinhood Village. Stiltgrass is an invasive species, and it usually grows further south but with warmer weather it has taken root here. Roger has worked with stiltgrass eradication in his career and so if anyone contacts us about stiltgrass contact Roger or Tenley at KELT.

VI **New Business**

* **Summer Oyster Program Update: Friday, August 19th. 2022—3pm**
  + Aria gave an update of the Meets and Eats Event. An article was in the *Tide* and this week Aria will send out the Sign-Up Genius invite and start publicizing the event. She is hoping to have 2-3 speakers but only has Chad committed so far. Aria will ask Cliff to publicize the event on the board on Robinhood Rd and Dave at the Fire Station. Amanda does not want to be inundated with people and so we have a 30-person limit. The event starts at 3pm and then Amanda will host her regular happy hour at 4pm.
* **Coastal Cleanup: Saturday, September 17th. 2022**
  + An article went into the *Tide* and Ruth would like some help organizing the event. Roger, Jessica, and Kathy volunteered to help. Ruth will stop by the transfer station tomorrow to see if the staff there are comfortable with the new DIY format of trash weighing.
* **Harvest Dinner: Saturday, October 8th, 2022**
  + Nancy is the point person for the event. Nancy will ask GCC to use their facility for the event. Jessica, Aria, and Kathy will be there to help with the event.
* **Program on Climate Change in the Gulf of Maine - [deferred until fall 2022)**
  + Program has been deferred to Winter 2023.
* **Maine Department of Tourism Question**
  + Sally Gardiner Smith from the Maine Office of Tourism would like to talk to someone to see if our conservation areas in Georgetown being used appropriately.
* **Tide Article Reminder—Deadline Monday, September 12th.**
  + Harvest Dinner Article will need to be written
* **Other Business**
  + Some wells have gone dry around the island (Indian Point and Bay Point)

Bronwen said the well at 5 Islands that serves 5 Islands lobster has also gone dry

* + KELT has invited us to participate in a redback salamander monitoring program in Weber Kelley Preserve. Volunteers will be going out on August 11th to set up monitoring areas. Volunteers will then monitor the redback salamander population in different KELT sites. Redback salamanders are the most prolific vertebrates in the state. This data collection will allow KELT to monitor how the populations of redback salamanders change in these dry conditions. There is a team of 4-5 volunteers helping KELT set up this process.
  + Hiking guide trails have been left at the Fire Department, stores, restaurants, inns and other places where people are seeking out things to do.
  + Nancy asked if we should put together a senior UNH project for next year and asked for possible topics. Aria brought up the drought and Kathy discussed how valuable the work they have done has been in the past. Ruth talked about Phippsburg and how they have projects with shared wells and perhaps this might be something Georgetown could be looking into. She also suggested a potential project dealing with the Overboard Discharge Systems in Bay. Nancy said the problem with the OBD is that the homeowners bear the burden of putting in the system. Nancy is unsure if there is a viable project for this year and asked for people to think about it for our August 15th meeting.
* **Membership**
  + Potential members need to attend a meeting or two to see if they want to join and participate.
  + Thank you, Sue Shade, for coming tonight.

VII **Special Meeting: Monday, August 15th, 2022, at 6:30pm**

**September Meeting: Monday, September 12th, 2022, at 6:30pm**

VIII **Meeting Adjourned at 8:17pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Weller