**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, September 12th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

I **Call to order, welcome and introductions at 6:33pm**

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

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

Guests: Judson Merrill, Indian Point Association and Laurie Martin, GCS grade 1-2 teacher

III **Minutes from August 9, 2022, meeting were approved as written**.

**Minutes from special meeting on August 15, 2022, were approved as written.**

IV **Indian Point Association**—Judson Merrill, member of the Indian Point Association

came to discuss the concerns about low-lying roads in their association that already flood at king tides. The association is trying to assess what to do about the town and privately owned roads. The Conservation Commission asked if they have pinpointed specific sites of concern and if they have taken photographs to document the flooding. Judson shared that they have identified areas but have not taken photographs yet. It was also suggested that they purchase weather depth gauge sticks, like on Williams Road, to use as a reference mark when the photographs are taken. The Commission will send them information about these depth gauge sticks to Judson.

V **Community Resilience Partnership**

* Select Board Meeting/Grant Proposal update—Nancy, Jessica and Kathy presented the two project proposals that were decided upon at the Conservation Commission special August 15th meeting to the Select Board at on August 23rd. The board liked project number 2 but there were a lot of questions and concerns about the wording that we had created. The Select Board did approve our joining the Community Resilience Partnership but asked that we create a detailed grant proposal for Project 2 (Energy Assessment of Town Office/School) for their approval at their next meeting. Nancy, Jessica, Kathy, have been meeting with Amanda and Mary from Town Office, Kelly James from School Committee and Chloe Shields and Courtney Crossgrove our CRP partners over the past two weeks. Together we have created a detailed grant proposal that includes a Level 3 Energy Assessment/Plan for School/Town Office, First Church, Georgetown Community Center and the GFVD Central Fire Station. Nancy and Jessica will be presenting the final grant proposal at tomorrow’s Select Board Meeting on September 13th. If the grant proposal passes, we will submit it before the September 20th deadline.
* Application to Join the Partnership Update—The municipal resolution will be voted on tomorrow night at the Select Board meeting and Jessica will upload the necessary documents to join the Community Resilience Partnership before the deadline of September 20th.
* Regional Meeting Update—Bronwen gave a quick update of this meeting that Jessica, Kathy, Amanda, Ruth and she attended on Monday, August 29th. Our CRP partners gathered the 5 towns participating in the program, as well as Bath for a workshop where we could share our progress in applying for a CRP grant and share our town concerns regarding climate resiliency. A real time cross reference showed that many of the towns had similar concerns. This workshop also allowed us to hear from other towns, and what they have done to help address sea level rise, well water monitoring etc. Every town is concerned about sea level rides effecting roads and freshwater wells. Our CRP partners have organized a follow up workshop with Maine DOT on October 13th to address some of our road concerns.

VI **Old Business**

* **Survey of Round the Cove (John Wood)** – John Wood will start the survey field work in mid-September.
* **Update on Stiltgrass**—There was a field workday at Clary Pond two weeks ago with a person from the state who has just been hired to deal with invasive species. The goal was to pull as much of the stiltgrass now before it goes to seed. Unfortunately, no one from the Conservation Commission was able to attend this workday so no update could be given at this time.
* **Update on how Oyster event *Eats and Meets* went**—Thank you to Aria for all her hard work to make this event happen. Thanks to Amanda for hosting and Pat Burns and Chad Campbell for speaking. There were 35 people there and it was a great event. Aria said that next year we could potentially do another program and maybe expand it to seaweed or other aquaculture. Kathy wrote nice thank you notes to those who helped with the event.

VII **New Business**

* **GCS StoryWalks® at Round the Cove Trail (Laurie Martin)**
  + Laurie Martin, the grade 1/2 teacher at GCS, has received a grant from GIEF to put up a StoryWalks® behind the school. She wanted to know if it was okay for her to use Round the Cove trail for this project?
  + Most of the boards have been created out of hemlock. They are very heavy and the best way to hang them is to use lag bolts to mount the storyboards to trees? She wonders if this is okay.
  + The conservation commission was concerned about the damage that lag bolts would have on the trees. Laurie joined the call late and shared that lag bolts would not be as damaging to the tree as a screw would. Aria suggested that Laurie reach out to a local arborist, who is also a parent in the school, to get his opinion. Laurie will send us the dimensions of the boards so we can think more about posts or frames.
  + The Commission is excited about the StoryWalks® being part of Round the Cove trail but wondered if there were alternatives to the lag bolts such as posts on the ground or a wood frame for the boards that would go on the ground. Laurie was not opposed to the idea of posts but thinks we may need to use concrete to secure them. Lag bolts were the least expensive way to mount the boards. 14 story board are required for the first book and she only has $200 left of her $1,000 grant to hang the boards. Roger shared that if we do end up using lag bolts, they need to be galvanized. Aria suggested partnering with Age Friendly as they may have someone who could build the posts/frames.
  + Ruth suggested that some of our CC trail maintenance budget may be able to contribute to additional costs for the project. A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to $500 of our Trail Maintenance budget to help with this project. The board approved this motion. Aria was selected as point person for the Conservation Commission for this project.
* **Coastal Cleanup:** Saturday, September 17th. 2022—Ruth has registered the event with the state, has hung the banner at the Transfer Station and has created a flyer. Jim Peavey has already sent the flyer out to the Age Friendly listserv. Aria will reach out to get the event advertised on the board at Robinhood Cove and the board at the Central Fire Station. Ruth will soon contact Roger, Sue, Aria and the other volunteers about their volunteer shifts at the transfer station.
* **Harvest Gathering** Saturday, October 8th 2022 from 12pm-2pm at the Georgetown Community Center—Nancy talked with Mary and Angie at the GCC and Nancy is going to be trained on how to use the stove. Jessica will write something to advertise the event for the Tide. Ruth found the old poster and modified it so it can be hung up. The meal will be potluck and Nancy will look into the turkeys. Aria will reach out to get the event advertised on the board at Robinhood Cove and the board at the Central Fire Station.
* **UNH Senior Project**—There will not be a senior UNH project this year for Georgetown. Unfortunately, there are not enough students in the program this year.
* **Update on Fire at Morse Pond and KELT Workdays**—Ruth shared that the fire did not start on KELT property and burned only a small portion of the northeastern corner of KELT property. Luckily a lot of the plants in that area of GT are adaptable to fire. Twelve different fire departments participated in dealing with the fire and were able to keep it contained. The fire originated from a fire ring that had not put it out properly. KELT is talking as a land trust to see if there are opportunities to educate the public about this area and the way that fire effects the forest. Aria wondered if Georgetown should investigate fire safety signs that would let citizens and visitors know that permits are required for fires.

KELT has contracted with a consultant for Flying Point Marsh to redesign and restructure the culvert there. Ruth shared an image that the consultant has created to show all the berms and ditches that have been created since the 1700s.

* **Move next month’s meeting?—**The next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission falls on Indigenous People Day. The group voted to hold our meeting on another day. Jessica will ask Amanda if there are other options for our October meeting.

VIII **Next Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022**

IX **Meeting Adjourned at 7:57pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller