**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

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

I  **Call to order and welcome at 6:32pm**

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

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

III         **Minutes from October 17, 2022 meeting were approved as written.**

IV       **Community Resilience Partnership Grant Application Update**

The Community Resilience Partnership grant to conduct a Level 3 Energy Audit for our town buildings was approved! Amanda Campbell is the point of contact for this project for the town. She will let the Conservation Commission know when she will need our assistance with the project. Amanda is meeting with other grant recipients on December 16th to learn about next steps.

V         **Old Business**

**A.** **Survey of Round the Cove (John Wood)**

John has submitted the preliminary survey plan and a copy is available for review at Town if anyone from the Commission wants to review it. Kathy shared that the most interesting revelation is that the Town trail through Round the Cove Forest to the Newman Sanctuary crosses Fred Taft's land for approximately 130 feet. The trail and footbridge between the Town property and the Newman Sanctuary are on the Taft property. In 2002 an easement was created (Kathy emailed a copy of this easement to the group), so that the town could use this part of the Taft property as long as the town maintained the trail. The easement mentions the Conservation Commission as being responsible for the trail. Kathy had a few questions about boundary lines on the preliminary plan. John is waiting for feedback from the Conservation Commission and the Select Board if we have any questions and then he will submit his final plan. The Conservation made a motion to send the survey as is to the Select Board and the motion was accepted and approved.

**B.  StoryWalks Update**

Sue Shade reported that the boards are up and look great! They are sturdy boards that are 2 by 3 feet, with a roof top and are attached to a single 4x4 post. They are located behind the school in the northeast corner where the steps go down to the ropes course. Kathy asked Sue to let Laurie know that we need the invoices for the additional costs. These invoices can be given to Amanda at Town Office. The Conservation Commission has approved up to $500 to help with the additional costs. Thank you Sue for your help with this project.

**C.**  **Town Committee Chairs Meeting Update**

Kathy attended this meeting and said it was useful to have all the chairpersons from the town in one room to discuss their groups efforts. Amanda and Mary put together a committee book of rules and procedures to share what the state expects from its town groups. For instance, when our group has work parties with volunteers, we need to have a list of people involved ahead of time for liability purposes. Kathy is happy to share the committee book of rules that was given out with members of the commission to look at it.

**D.**  **January 28th Winter Potluck Lunch**

The Winter Potluck Gathering will take place on Saturday January 28th from 12-2pm at the GCC. Jessica submitted an article for the December *Tide* and we will work to advertise it on the town boards, have Jim email it out to his listserv, share it on the Conservation, Recreation Department and Indian Point Facebook pages, share it on the town website and give it to Nina for the school newsletter. Jim Peavey wondered if *Age Friendly* could put up a table about computer education at that event and Nancy agreed. Jess and Aria volunteered to make a flier and they will help to distribute it. The Conservation Commission will be providing the turkey, cider and coffee for the event and ask others to bring side dishes. Aria suggested we ask folks who attend to bring a donation for the food pantry, we will discuss this further through email. Jessica and Aria will share some games so that folks can play then after they eat at their table.

**E**. **Trail Maintenance**

John Wood noticed during his survey of the Round the Cove Trail that there is some trail maintenance work that needs to be done. Trail makers need to be repainted, one of the boards on the bog bridge by the ropes course needs to be replaced and a trail head sign has fallen off a tree that the Historical Society found. We may need a work party to make the trail safe before the Owl Prowl on January 7th. Roger is going to go out with Ruth to survey what needs to be done after the snow melts. The Conservation Commission has not inspected the Ipcar trail this fall. We will wait until spring to do this. Lauren Bray has volunteered to be part of a trail work party.

VI        **New Business**

1. **2023 Calendar of Events for Conservation Commission**

Sue and Kathy will work on our Conservation Commission calendar for 2023. They will send out the calendar when they finish it and then have us discuss it at a future meeting. Email Sue or Kathy if you have any Conservation Commission events that you would like to see on the 2023 calendar.

1. **Winter Programs**
	1. **Owl Prowl-Saturday January 7th at 4:30**

This popular KELT event is already on a waitlist with 38 people signed up on the first day. Aria worries that the event hasn’t been advertised to the school yet and is already full. She wanted to make sure lots of kids could be involved and wonders if we might be able to do another program in February that can serve more people.

* 1. **Big Night**

Jessica has submitted four sites to Greg Leclerc at the University of Maine and is waiting to hear back. She plans to touch base with Nina about coming back into the schools to do another presentation with the kids. We will also need to host another Zoom trainings for the volunteers and create new waiver forms with Town Office for this season. It was suggested that we have a Big Night table at the Potluck to advertise this effort. Kathy asked that Jessica figure out ways to involve the rest of the commission and the town.

* 1. **Speaker for the Winter?**

Since we have a lot going on this winter, we decided to defer having a speaker until the spring. Jessica suggested we tap into the Zoom speaker series that the state will be putting together to support those members in the Community Resilience Partnership called: ***Building Stronger Communities***. We should have more information about this at our next meeting.

VII  **Updates**

1. **Williams Road Flooding**

Williams Road flooded two weeks ago. Karen notified Kathy and that community is doing a good job of documenting the flooding.

1. **Hunting Signs**

Kathy put up the orange signs on the trailheads of the two town trails warning hikers and hunters that it is hunting season.

1. **Website**

Kathy renewed our Georgetown Conservation Commission domain name and website host. We had $120 allotted in our budget for this and the actual cost was $140. Amanda will take the additional funds from another line item in our budget. Our domain name host is Godaddy our website host is Wordpress. These two items renew annually in the fall.

1. **Commercial Clamming in Reid State Park**

Kathy shared that Jon Hentz, the Shellfish Warden, is concerned about commercial clamming in Reid State Park. Jon wants to talk to the Conservation Commission about this issue at our January meeting. Jon will be added to the new Public Comment section at the beginning of our January meeting.

1. **KELT Update**

KELT will be doing a lecture with the Georgetown Historical Society in either the spring or summer about the historical uses of tidal marshes.

1. **Reid State Park**

Roger shared that the park is hoping to convert the old concession shed and turn it into a community nature center. The park has received funds and they are replacing the bridge going to the main beach in April. They also have plans to build a new booth with two lanes (one for cash customers and one for people with passes). Roger (and Jessica) are part of the new Friends of Reid State Park group. Roger has had a few meetings with Jim Peavey and Haylee (the park ranger) and the new Friends of Reid State Park group is hoping to meet at the start of 2023.

VIII       **Next Meeting: Monday, January 9th 2022 at 6:30pm**

IX       **Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller