**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, April 10th at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

**I**  **Call to order and welcome at 6:34 pm**

**II**  **Determine quorum—**Members Present: Kathy Gravino\*, Nancy Kinner\*, Aria Eee\*\*,

Ruth Indrick\*, Sue Shade\*\*, Jessica Weller\* [\*Member/\*\*Associate Member]

 Select Board Member: Bronwen Tudor

**III**       **Minutes from March 13, 2023 meeting were approved as written**

**IV**   **Public Comment** -No Public Comment

**V**   **Old Business**

1. **Level 3 Energy Grant Update**

The Energy Grant committee has reviewed the one proposal received. The vendor follows a unique model for their energy audits, and the committee is unsure if our grant would be applicable to their model. Members of the committee are working to call the company’s references, reaching out to additional vendors, contacting towns with similar grant proposals, and contacting the state to see if this vendor would be an option for our grant and/or if we could expand our timeline to work with a different vendor. Jessica will be attending the June *Age Friendly* meeting to talk about partnering with them for our community outreach programs for the grant.

1. **Trail Maintenance Update**

Roger was not with us tonight to update us on trail conditions so we will table this item until our May meeting.

1. **Big Night Update—Amphibian Signs**

The Pre-K-2nd grades have created 10 “Salamander/Frog Crossing Signs”. Four of these signs have been posted at two crossing areas (Robinhood and West Georgetown Rd). The additional signs are being saved for next year. We have had a lot of amphibians crossing in the Morse Pond area and West Georgetown. There have been a few casualties, and this emphasizes the importance of this work.

1. **Ipcar Reserve Study**

Kathy spoke with John Wood and he will bill for the remaining Round the Cove Trail survey when he returns to Georgetown at the end of April. This will put our Trail Reserve budget line at $0. The FAC would like us to hold off at least a year on requesting $3,000 for our Trail Survey Reserve Fund for the second parcel of the Ipcar Reserve. Bronwen suggested we put the request in as a line item in our budget instead of as a reserve item as it is important that this survey gets done before John Wood retires.

**VI     New Business**

1. **Turtle Crossing Signs**

Some of the turtle signs have disappeared and we would like to replace them. Nancy placed the original order for the signs and found an email from Robin Moore who helped to place the original signs. Replacement metal signs cost $25 each. Kathy would like to do an inventory of the signs and see what needs to be replaced. Sue will help with this effort. This expense may need to come out of our operating budget.

1. **Website**

Aria, Sue and Jessica are willing to help Lee with the Conservation website. Kathy sent an email to Lee, but they have not heard back. They will reach out to Lee again to see how they can be of assistance.

1. **GHS/KELT Program Collaboration**

Susan Taylor from GHS is happy to have us join in on the collaboration of the program that GHS and KELT are running on marsh history and marsh remediation. There will be a marsh walk offered as part of this program, the next day. Ruth and Susan will be meeting to discuss the event and the program will most likely take place in August. It was suggested that a date be found before the May 12th *Tide* deadline, so that it can be advertised in the June/July issue.

1. **Friends of Reid State Park Partnership?**

Jim Peavey has worked to form a *Friends of Reid State Park* advisory board as part of the new *Friends of Reid State Park* group. The board has now had two meetings with park staff. The two main focuses of the group currently are to help the park to provide programs and restore the stone schoolhouse on Seguinland Road. The advisory board would love to have the Conservation Commission as a formal partner of the *Friends of Reid State Park*. This might mean future collaboration on programs etc. The CC supports this endeavor but would like to know more information about what this partnership will entail. Ruth suggested that perhaps an advisory board seat be filled by a CC member to work as a liaison for both groups. Currently Roger and Jessica sit on both boards. It needs to be understood that our partnership cannot entail fundraising efforts because the CC is a municipal body. Jessica will act as liaison for now and ask the *Friends of Reid State Park* advisory board to better define the partnership at their next meeting.

1. **Summer Conservation BBQ/Potluck?**

Nancy wondered if we should host a summer gathering to help spread the word of the work of the Conservation Commission for the summer residents. The school was a suggested area to host the gathering because it is close to the Round the Cove Trail that the CC manages. It was suggested that we offer guided walks of Round the Cove Trail as part of this gathering. Permission will need to be granted from the school to use the grounds and the restrooms by the gym. The proposed dates are: Saturday, July 29th with a rain date of Sunday, July 30th and back up dates of August 19th and August 20th. Nancy will contact the GCC board to see if they have any conflicts with those dates. Once we have dates, Aria will contact Nina about use of the school before our next meeting. We hope to have an article in the June/July *Tide* to advertise the event.

**VII Updates**

1. **Indian Point Association Woodlands Committee**

The Indian Point Association Woodlands Committee is looking to create a forest management plan for the inner part of the Loop Road. Rachel Madsen reached out to Kathy to see who performed our forest study of Ipcar Reserve and Round the Cove. Kathy found the reports and shared them with Rachel. In doing this she realized that this information is still timely and not currently on our website. The reports are ten years old so we may want to apply for funding in the future to update them.

Last summer Rich Donaldson invited a state forester to review fire hazards in Ipcar; Roger and Kathy joined them both one afternoon to walk the trails.  The forester recommended against clearing blowdown except where it blocked trails and said the forest was in pretty good shape.

1. **Get to Know Your Neighbor**

The Recreation Department will be hosting *Get to Know Your Neighbor* on April 30th at the GCC from 12-2pm. Citizen of the Year nominations are due April 13th. Conservation will have a table at the event to publicize the work that we do.

**VIII     Next Meeting: Monday, May 8th 2023 at 6:30pm**

**IX       Meeting Adjourned at 7:51pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller