**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

I  **Call to order and welcome at 6:31pm**

II  **Determine quorum—**Members Present: Kathy Gravino\*, Aria Eee\*\*, Roger Bogart\*,

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

Select board member: Bronwen Tudor

Guests: Jon Hentz

III         **Minutes from December 12, 2022 meeting were approved as written.**

IV       **Public Comment**

Welcome Jon Hentz, Georgetown Shellfish Warden

Jon came to visit but due to technical difficulties on his end he was unable to talk with us. He will follow up with a letter to Kathy.

V        **Old Business**

1. **Survey of Round the Cove** (John Wood) – update

The preliminary survey was given to the Select Board for review and comment. There were a few questions, and it will be voted on by the Select Board at their meeting on January 10th. If approved, John will submit the survey to the Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds.

1. **January 28th Harvest Potluck**

An article advertising the potluck was in the last issue of the *Tide*. A poster/social media image has been created and will be shared on various Facebook sites and with the local listservs. Nancy will contact Clif and Dave about advertising on the town message boards. Nancy will get in touch with each of us as the date gets closer for specific tasks.

1. **Trail Maintenance Update**

Jim Peavey, Will Richards and Roger did a lot of trail work in Round the Cove to prep for the Owl Prowl. The Christmas windstorm created a lot of damage and downed trees. Roger said the trail coming in from the school area is very dangerous with exposed roots. Kathy wonders if that part of the trail should be relocated. This is a potential project for the summer.

1. **Owl Prowl Reflection**

The Owl Prowl worked out very well with 28 guests and 33 people overall. Round the Cove trail was a perfect spot for this type of event. No owls were spotted, a few thought they heard owls, but the group did get to watch the moonrise as they walked back from the cove. Ruth spoke with Jane and Kit (the owl naturalists) about hosting another program during the next full moon. This next event will take place on Saturday, February 4th at 5pm. KELT will not publicize this event and will open it up to the current waitlist from the last Owl Prowl and invite the older Georgetown school kids.

There was talk about a specific program for younger children. Ruth will check in with Jane and Kit about this possibility. There was a suggestion to add a younger child event before the other event on the 4th.

1. **Big Night**

We are still waiting to hear from Greg Leclerc at the state about registering our four official sites, Jessica will follow up this week. A ZOOM training will take place on Sunday, March 5th at 3pm to train new volunteers and teach our previous volunteers how to take data. An article will be submitted to the Feb/March *Tide*. Jessica will contact Nina about visiting the school to share a story and a flyer to get the kids excited about Big Night.

VI        **New Business**

1. **2023/24 Calendar of Events for Conservation Commission**

Kathy and Sue started a draft of a new yearly calendar. The calendar is divided into two sections, commitments that are required of the Conservation Commission and optional events.

We decided to table the calendar discussion to next month so we can discuss it when everyone is present. Bronwen suggested we put the dates into a monthly calendar format to make sure we spread things out evenly, as we are a small team. Aria suggested finding a way to add more people to our commission or create a volunteer group to help with our many projects and events.

A motion was made to table the calendar discussion until next month and it was approved.

1. **Plan for the Level 3 Energy Audit Grant**
   1. **Team is Working on Getting this Grant Underway**

This team involves Amanda, Mary, Bronwen, Kathy, Nancy, and Jessica. The first steps of the grant are to find suitable vendors, write an RFQ and share the grant with the community.

* 1. **First of a Series of Project Webinars will be on Thursday, February 16th**

We will be hosting a series of Project Webinars to keep the community informed about the Level 3 Energy Assessment project. The first webinar is scheduled for Thursday February 16th on ZOOM. It will go over the grant that was written and explain what a Level 3 Energy audit is and what it is not. There will also be a question-and-answer component at the end of the webinar. The webinars will be recorded and posted on the town website for those who are unable to attend. An article will be in the next *Tide* about this webinar series.

* 1. **Community Outreach of this Project**

There is a large community outreach component for this grant. We will be working with the school, Age Friendly and we will be hosting webinars and workshops about energy efficiency. There will be more details to come but members of the Commission are welcome to get involved in any of these projects.

* 1. **Possible Future Grants**

Now that we are part of the Community Resilience Partnership for the next two years, we have an opportunity to apply for a grant every 6 months. Woolwich just got a grant award to help create an Emergency Management Plan. Ruth shared that this might be something that Georgetown could apply for in the future.

1. **Building Stronger Community Series**

a.     **3 videos already in the series**

(Climate Change, CRP and Rising Sea Levels)

<https://www.youtube.com/@rcmaine>

b. **Should we publicize this educational series?**

Bronwen pointed out that there are many advantages to being part of the Community Resilience Partnership and one of them is this Building Stronger video series. She suggested members of the commission view the videos to see if we could set up a possible watch party with members of the community or advertise them in our various channels. The next video in the series is on January 10th from 10-11am.

VII  **Updates**

1. **Storyboards Trail Update**:

The storyboards are up and they look great. They did a nice job of creating a

solution that did not harm the trees.

1. **Conservation Commission Donation:**

The Conservation Commission got a $75 donation from Hugo and Cynthia Liepmann. They wrote a note thanking the commission for doing such a great job with the trails.

1. **Christmas Windstorm—Update from Reid State Park:**

Roger gave an update that the state is going to move all of the

driftwood up on to the dunes to help stabilize them. A group of volunteers met

up on Saturday to help shovel the sand off of the boardwalk and the state is going to come in and help with the rest of the work. In the spring work will be done to stabilize the bridge and add another lane at the tollbooth.

1. **Possible Meeting/Event Space:**

Philip Francis, the founder and director of the Seguinland Institute offered their meeting space for possible future Conservation Commission events/meetings.

1. **Trail map of Reid State Park:**

Lauren Bray gave us a trail map for Reid State Park which we shared on the CC Facebook Page. We do not include these trails in our guide because there is a fee to get into the park.

VIII       **Next Meeting: Monday, February 13th 2022 at 6:30pm**

IX       **Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller