**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

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

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

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

 Select Board Member: Bronwen Tudor

Guests: Julie Pankey—Finance Committee

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

IV       **Public Comment** -No Public Comment

V **Review and Vote on Budget Proposal for 2023/24**

 Julie Pankey from the Finance Advisory Committee was present to help with next year’s

CC 2023/24 budget proposal. The group went through the budget line by line and Kathy asked to raise the website maintenance to $150 to deal with the rising costs of hosting the site. The group decided to request $3,000 to put into the trail survey reserve fund, to start to replenish this fund for future survey work on Ipcar preserve. The 2023/24 proposed Conservation budget was voted on and approved.

VI       **Old Business**

1. **Level 3 Energy Grant Update**

The RFQ has been posted and sent out to approved vendors on the Efficiency Maine website. On March 6th, Nancy and Jessica gave a tour of the municipal buildings, included in the Level 3 energy audit, to one of the vendors interested in our project. Proposals from vendors are due back at the end of the month. There will be an Energy Grant page on the town website where information will be posted to keep the community informed.

1. **Trail Maintenance Update**

Jim Peavey, Roger and Aria have been through the Round the Cove trails in February, and all looked good. We will check again for downed branches after tomorrow’s storm.

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

The ZOOM presentation on Sunday, March 5th went well. It was a small crowd but many more folks watch the recording. The Big Night supply bin is now outside of Town Office and will be there until May 15th. We got a few more volunteer sign ups at the CC Potluck and through the school visit. Jessica shared a Big Night story, *Salamander Sky*, with the school on March 6th. A copy of that book has been donated to the library from the Conservation Commission. The Pre-K-2nd grades have written a letter to the town asking if they have permission to put up “Salamander Crossing Signs ”that will be put up at the crossing sites during the Big Night season. This is part of their Citizen Science unit. Jessica will get the materials needed for the kids to make these signs. Aria and Kathy offered to help Jessica put them up when they are finished.

1. **Potluck Reflection**

What a wonderful time we had and so wonderful to be all together. There were between 40-50 people present and it was lovely group of folks from all around town. Allison Hepler joined us which was nice. Thank you Nancy, for all of your hard work with this event!

**VII        New Business**

1. **Ipcar Reserve Survey**

Kathy contacted John Wood about surveying the western parcel of Ipcar preserve and he is interested but he does have some concerns about the property. Kathy will discuss the project with both Amanda and John to hopefully set it up for Summer/Fall of 2023. We will ask for $3,000 for our Trail Survey Reserve Fund in next year’s budget to plan for this expense. John has not yet billed for his last portion of the Round the Cove survey. He will submit this bill in person after he files the plan with the state in April.

1. **Shellfish Committee Policy Proposal Discussion**

We have not heard anything from Jon Hentz since our last meeting. We will wait to see what the Shellfish Committee needs us to do to in order to show our support.

1. **Trail guides**

Kathy will place an order for additional trail guides with Lincoln Publishing for the summer months. The restaurants, bed and breakfasts and other public places like to have them for their summer visitors. Ruth asked if any changes had to be made and Kathy knows that the date must be changed. Ruth will update the guide at KELT and send it on to Kathy for printing. Kathy asked for up to $1,000 from our printing budget for this project. This motion was approved.

1. **Turtle Crossing Signs**

A few years ago Charlie Collins and Nancy worked to purchase turtle crossing signs. Some of the signs have been stolen because of their attractive nature. We will need to go out and see which signs are missing and find out the cost to replace them. This expense may need to come out of our operating budget.

1. **Website**

Jessica asked if we could have someone on the current Conservation Commission learn from Lee how to update the website so we can keep it up to date. Aria, Sue and Jessica offered to help with this.

**VIII Updates**

1. **GHS/KELT Program**

KELT is working on a history of the marshes program with GHS and Kathy asked if the Conservation Commission should co-sponsor this event. Ruth thought that would be a great idea.

1. **Reid State Park**

Reid State Park is still closed and the Friends of Reid State Park Group is meeting this Saturday with Haylee the park ranger.

1. **Rec Program**

April 13th is the deadline to nominate community members for Citizen of the Year. Get to Know Your Neighbor will be on April 30th at the GCC. There is a Recreation Department survey going around right now to help them set up future projects.

**IX       Next Meeting: Monday, April 10th 2023 at 6:30pm**

**X       Meeting Adjourned at 7:41pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller