**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, October 16th 6:30pm**

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

**II**  **Determine quorum—**Members Present: Kathy Gravino\*, Ruth Indrick\*, Jessica Weller\*

Roger Bogart\*, Sue Shade\*\*, Aria Eee\*\*

 [\*Member/\*\*Associate Member]

 Select Board Member: Bronwen Tudor

**III**   **Minutes from September 11, 2023 meeting were approved as written**

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

**V          Old Business**

1. **Community Resilience Partnership**
2. **Community Action Grant update**

A contract has been signed with Sparhawk Group for a Level II energy audit of the

School/Town Office building, the GCC and the Central Fire Station. Nancy, Tyler and Kathy will be touring the buildings on Wednesday, October 18th with Joe Lynch from Sparhawk.

1. **Education Outreach Plan**

Jessica has done some research about possible displays and information that we can share at the potluck but was hoping to find a speaker. Ruth suggested Sam Saltonstall as a possible speaker, as he has a presentation ready to go. It was suggested that Jim Peavey might want to have an Age Friendly display at the potluck, Jessica will ask him. Joe Lynch from Sparhawk will be running a community program at the end of the Level II audit. Jessica will talk with Nina about having an Energy Conservation Week at the school during the winter/spring of 2024. It was suggested that we put our recorded Energy Grant programs on the town YouTube site. Jessica will see if she can find the recording of our first program (the announcement the grant).

1. **2023 Coastal Clean-up Reflection**

There were ten data collection sheets turned in this year. There was talk during the event of creating a custom data sheet that better meets the items that people find in Georgetown. The shorter time frame at the transfer station worked out great and the plan is to keep the time short again next year. The gift card prizes went out to families with children. It was suggested that next year we better advertise the prizes that the prizes be better defined.

**VI         New Business**

1. **GCC Community Playground request**

The GCC has requested to put a play area on the Ipcar Preserve, across the street from the GCC. They have not yet approached the Select Board but wanted to get approval from the Conservation Commission first. They do not believe there will be any tree removal needed for this project and they have the site marked out. The consensus was that this is a great idea and that it could lead to the development of nature trails in that part of the preserve. The Commission made a motion to support the idea of the GCC installing a playground, with safe access to cross the street from the GCC to the Ipcar Preserve. The motion was passed.

1. **Town Ordinance/Town Policies for Public Use of Town Preserves**

Tyler has contacted the MMA with questions about this but has not heard back yet. Kathy will check in with him tomorrow for an update.

1. **Fall Potluck (Saturday, November 4th 12-2pm)**

The potluck will be at the GCC from 12-2pm. Nancy will reach out to the group about the details. Jessica and Aria will work on the flyer and getting it out to our different channels. Aria will contact Dave and Jess will email Clif about getting it advertised on the boards. The biggest thing to work on is publicity and the program. Jessica will put together materials for the program. Roger will be helping Nancy with the turkey.

1. **Nurdles ZOOM Presentation**

Nancy was not present to discuss this future program.

1. **Website**

We were charged $165.89 to renew the domain and the hosting of the site. It has gone up and so we will need to raise that in the budget for next year. We need to figure out how to take the website over to keep it fresh and current.

1. **RTC Work Day in October with the School?**

This will be postponed until the spring.

1. **Turtle Signs (Sue has them!)**

Sue has 6 signs from the town and has driven around town to make note of where the current signs are and where signs may be missing. It was suggested asking the town to put them up for us early next spring to avoid plows or other destruction over the winter. Sue will make a master map of all the signs so that we can keep track of them in the future.

**VII      Updates**

1. **Friends of Reid State Park and Rec Committee Update**

The Fall Frolic/Reid State Park Art show was a great success. The new Reid State Park nature center will be worked on over the winter. A new contractor has been hired to reconstruct the booth over the winter/next spring.

1. **Rec Committee Update**

The group hopes to have a rain date for the Fall Frolic next year to avoid scheduling issues with other town events. A Halloween event will be held at the GCC if anyone wants to decorate their trunk and hand out candy.

1. **KELT**

There is a ZOOM program on invasive jumping worms on Tuesday, October 17th at 6pm. KELT is hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 18th from 5-7pm in their new building. Ruth is applying for a grant with NOAA for Transformational Habitat and Coastal Resilience. This grant will encompass many projects but one of the larger project’s centers around the resiliency of the saltmarsh area on 127 in Arrowsic. The Conservation Commission made a motion to support KELT and will write a letter to the Select Board asking for their support of this grant. The motion to write the letter of support was approved.

1. **Chesapeake Blue Crab**

Roger shared that the Chesapeake blue crab has arrived in Maine. The crab eats lobster and clams and was found in New Meadow and in Phippsburg. There is hope that the blue crab may eat the invasive green crab.

**VIII     Next month’s meeting is on November 13, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**IX        Meeting Adjourned at 7:48m**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller