**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm [via Zoom]**

**I**  **Call to order and welcome at 6:38pm**

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

Roger Bogart\*, Aria Eee, Ruth Indrick\*

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

Select Board Member: Bronwen Tudor

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

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

**V          Old Business-Community Resilience Partnership**

1. **Community Action Grant update**

Kathy contacted Tyler and he has been getting energy bill requests from Sparhawk for the Level 2 Audit. He has no additional information at this time.

1. **Community Meeting Update**

Kathy and Jessica attended the Southern Midcoast Resilience Collaborative meeting on Wednesday, December 6th. After each town shared updates of their CRP projects, the Island Institute shared information about their fellowship program. Georgetown would be able to apply for the fellowship program, but it is a 2 year commitment (unless you share with a neighboring town) and does cost about $14,500 per year. The fellow would need to live in Georgetown and would require suitable housing. Housing costs are covered by the Island Institute, unless an in-law apartment or year-round dwelling is donated, then those costs are deducted from the annual fee. In order to apply for the program, we would need a climate resiliency project for the fellow to take charge of. CRP grants can be used to pay for the fees of the fellowship program. We could also apply for CRP grants and additional grants to conduct the project. The fellow would need a point person to oversee their work and that may have to be a member of the Conservation Commission. Overall, everyone thought this would be a great benefit to our small town and Bronwen suggested two project possibilities. One project was a study of the effects of sea level rise on the Town Wharf and Todd’s Landing. The TOPMB would be very interested in having such a study done. The second possibility was addressing safety and resiliency issues of Route 127. Aria thought that the Seguinland Institute might be able to partner with us and either provide housing or student support with a project. Ruth said you can have a land trust, like KELT, act as a home base for a fellow as well. We are not ready to apply for this year but we will seek out more information and create a timeline for possibly applying next year.

1. **Community Expo?**

It was decided that rather than having a Georgetown Community Expo, we may share information about energy savings in a few different ways. One idea was to advertise events that other groups are putting on. The first event is a hybrid meeting at the Patten Library on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30pm. This event is called *How to Retrofit your House to be Carbon Neutral* and is hosted by the Bath Climate Action Commission. The second ZOOM event is called *Shrink Your Energy Bil*ls and is being hosted by KELT on February 22nd at 6pm. Ruth suggested there may be a way to work with the Bath Climate Action on a larger expo that could serve multiple towns. She will put Jessica in touch with them in the new year.

**VI         New Business**

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

Tyler suggested we put together a list of policies for the town preserves and present it to the Select Board. They could then let us know if we are free to post the policies or if we need a Town Ordinance. Kathy has drafted a list and shared it with the group to go over.

It was suggested that this may be a great time to write a basic ordinance for the Conservation Commission, as we do not currently have one. The ordinance could create an official job description/mission statement for the group. This would allow us to establish size, terms of service, the make-up of the committee and help solidify our rules and procedures. It was also suggested that we might change the name of our group to the Conservation and Climate Commission to encompass the work of the CRP into the ordinance. MMA would be a great resource in writing this ordinance and Aria volunteered her legal services and suggested other retired lawyers in town who may be willing to help. Kathy will call the 5 towns in our partnership and see if they have ordinances and if so ask them to share them with us.

1. **Nurdles ZOOM Presentation—Thursday, February 1st at 7pm**

Nancy was not present and so we will catch up with her over email to figure out advertising for this event.

1. **Website/the Unified look of the CC**

Sue and Kathy met on this, no report yet.

1. **Spring Calendar (Big Night, Turtle Crossing Signs, Trail Clean up)**

There was nothing new to add to the spring calendar at this time.

1. **Georgetown Winter Walk (Trees and Tracks)**

Aria inquired about a 2024 combined winter program with KELT, the Rec Department and the Conservation Commission. She thought it might be nice to hold it during school vacation week. Ruth thought a winter walk may be a better idea in the town forest, rather than the traditional *Owl Prowl*. The idea of *Trees and Tracks* was born. Articles for the next *Tide* are due January 12th, so we have until then to figure out the details of this event.

**VII      Updates**

1. **Rec Committee Update**

The Tree Lighting will be Wednesday, December 12th from 5:00-6:30pm.

1. **KELT Update**

KELT had no updates at this time.

**VIII     Next month’s meeting is on January 8, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**IX        Meeting Adjourned at 7:28pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller