

GREAT POND PRESERVE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2018

Present: Whit Osgood, Chairman; Deb Carroll; David Gumbart; Gerhard Schade; Tom Mocko; and Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager

Chairman Osgood called the meeting to order at 11:00a.m.

Chairman Osgood MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss the potential land acquisition and financial participation listed on the agenda. Motion SECONDED by Gerhard Schade and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chairman Osgood MOVED to exit Executive Session. Motion SECONDED by Gerhard Schade and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, Richard Johnson exited the meeting and guest Annette Pasek joined the remainder of the meeting.

1. Chairman's Report:

Whit Osgood summarized his observations from his recent visit to the Preserve. The entrance sign needs to be replaced; the entrance path to the Preserve needs to be mowed; woody vegetation is establishing in the bottom of the former gravel pit just outside the Preserve which also needs mowing if a grasslands habitat is to be maintained; and the invasive plant species *Euonymus alatus* exists within the Preserve. Tom Mocko will coordinate with Parks and Recreation to arrange the mowings and pursue having a new entrance sign made. Gerhard Schade commented that constructing a roof over the sign would extend its lifespan.

4. Financial Update

David Gumbart reported that \$301,369.00 exists in the Committee's Endowment Fund and \$239,852.00 exists in the operational/reserve fund. David further inquired if the Stewardship Committee desired to sever all or part of its relationship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). A few members cited reasons to continue the existing relationship, which David will report back to the TNC.

5. Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2017 meeting

Gerhard Schade MOVED to APPROVE the minutes of April 6, 2017 as presented; motion SECONDED by Deb Carroll and passed 4-0-1, with David Gumbart abstaining.

3. Schedule work day & plan project

This year's work day is scheduled for Saturday May 5 at 9:00 a.m.; the rain date will be Saturday, May 12. The meeting point will be at the entrance path to the Preserve south of Great Pond Road. The work day goals are to remove/control invasive plants.

There was also discussion about returning later to: identify and appropriately control any mile-a-minute vine that may exist within or near the Preserve; mow the old gravel pit outside the Preserve no earlier than September in order to maintain the grasslands habitat while allowing the grassland nesting animal species to utilize the habitat for their propagation.

6. Other Business

Annette Pasek, a resident in the Great Pond area and an avid bird watcher, reported on her observations of woodcocks in the area and that some 125 bird species are known to use the area.

There being no other business, Whit Osgood adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mocko, Acting Secretary