

Great Pond Preserve Stewardship Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 21, 2021

Present: Whit Osgood, Chairman; David Gumbart (Nature Conservancy), Tom Mocko (Environmental Planner), Mark Packard, Paul Kehoe, Bill Shea (Conservation Commission), Lisa Zerio (Director Parks and Recreation), and Annette Pasek (citizen)

Meeting via Zoom was called to order at 8:00 am.

1. Chairman's Report: Noted no meeting in 2020 due to COVID. Park is in generally good condition with work by town on clearing from paths trees and mile-a-minute grass. Noted Judy Harper's retirement from the Conservation Commission and Jim Wright's retirement from the Kongsicut Land Trust. Bill Shea in attendance on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Frank Kaputa is replacing Jim Wright as the Kongsicut representative. Dedicated work of both individuals was noted.
2. Election of Officers. Whit Osgood nominated for Chairman and Mark Packard nominated for Secretary. Both voted in unanimously.
3. New Business: Workday scheduled for Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 am. Lisa Zerio noted that a Cub Scout group has expressed interest in joining the effort. She will reach out to them.
4. Financial Update: David Gumbart updated the Committee on the Reserve and Endowment which are both up over 2019.
5. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.
6. Other Business:
 - a. Lisa Zerio noted that the Town had done some tree clearing in the park from paths and that there were a couple of "hangers" that would require a tree professional to remove. Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to authorize up to \$6,000.00 of GPPSC funds for tree work as necessary to maintain paths.
 - b. Annette Pasek noted she has been in the preserve and adjacent Town land birding and suggested a birding blind might be an idea.
 - c. Mark Packard suggested a continuation of the trail through Town-owned property to the Oak at the corner of Old Maids Lane and Tryon Street. Issue of securing any new trail to prevent motorized vehicles was noted.
 - d. Continued maintenance of the abutting Town-owned land that is a meadow as a meadow was noted. The town has in the past gone in and brush-hogged invasives.
 - e. Possible future acquisition of development rights along Grindle Brook was noted.
 - f. Lisa Zerio noted that there is the possibility of an Eagle Scout project to possibly include signage, mapping and identification. Committee supported the concept.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.