

Great Pond Preserve Stewardship Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 14, 2022

Present: Whit Osgood, Chairman; Mark Packard, Secretary (Member-at-Large); Deb Carroll (Town Council); David Gumbart (Nature Conservancy); Frank Kaputa (Kongscut Land Trust); Paul Kehoe (Member-at-Large); Bill Shea (Conservation Commission); Suzanne Simone (Environmental Planner); Lisa Zerio (Director, Parks and Recreation); and Corey Turner (Recreation Commission)

Meeting in person (Meeting Room A, Town Hall) and via Zoom was called to order at 8:00 am.

1. Chairman's Report: Mark Packard and Whit Osgood have walked around the Pond recently. The Preserve appears to be in good condition. Trails are clear and freshly marked.

2. New Business

a. Update on Scout Signage Project

Lisa Zerio provided an update on the Eagle Scout signage project - Shaoyang Stassan created a Kiosk, performed maintenance of the trails, including re-blazing. He has also started a brochure and trail guide and cleared around the cedar tree. The Town to add a plaque near the tree, identified as the largest in the state. Committee to send thank you for his work. Lisa noted that he was very nice to work with.

b. Schedule Work Day

It was determined that a walk in the preserve might generate more interest than a work day. The date will be May 14th at 10am. Lisa to publicize the date and time.

c. Potter's Pond

Mark discussed the general layout of the trail. The trail starts at Great Pond Road and traverses high ground above and past Potter's Pond, then continues up to the ridge. Then down an old BALF erosion control berm and up to Kaye's Loop. Whit asked for input on marking out the trail, none noted. It was decided to mark the trail.

3. Financial Update: Dave Gumbart reported the Endowment was up from \$336,000 to \$343,311. Available cash was reported as \$137,436; last year available cash was \$123,000. Dave noted that available cash is kept relatively high in case desirable properties become available. Whit mentioned obtaining development rights to property to the North of the preserve along Grindle Brook.

4. Approval of Minutes – April 21, 2021 Approved with no comments.

5. Other Business

Parks Department to continue to brush hog the meadow at the end of the summer to help control invasive species.

Paul Kehoe said the Invasive *Euonymus (Burning Bush)* continues to spread and widow maker trees near the bridge are still present. Lisa mentioned the Parks Department would take care of the tree issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 am.

Submitted by Whit Osgood