

**Great Pond Preserve Stewardship Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of May 1, 2024**

**Present:** Whit Osgood, Chairman; Mark Packard, Secretary; Deb Carroll; David Gumbart (Nature Conservancy); Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation)

Meeting in Meeting Room A, Town Hall, was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. **Chairman's Report:** Whit Osgood reported that after the last annual committee meeting the Town Manager was asked to contact owners of the Chamberlain Lane parcel regarding a possible town acquisition. Owners indicated that they are only interested in selling as a buildable lot at a price in excess of \$100,000. It was agreed that the Town Manager should be asked to contact the owners again to see if their thinking regarding price has changed any.
2. **New Business:**
  - a. **Update on Scout Project:** An Eagle Scout (Ashish Kashyap) did his project at Great Pond. Work included trail maintenance and blazing, construction of benches, signage and the creation of a viewing deck that overlooks Potters Pond.
  - b. **Consider Work Day or Preserve Walk:** Discussion about asking Land Heritage Coalition and/or Great Meadow to do a Preserve Walk. There are invasives that should be removed. Lisa will reach out to a contractor to get pricing, as according to Whit and Mark, probably needs to be removed by mechanical means.
3. **Financial Update:** David Gumbart reported that the Nature Conservancy has a cash reserve of \$71,000. Last year this fund had \$151,000. David will check to see why the account is down and email Whit what he finds out. The endowment funds are worth \$334,000. Last year the fund was worth \$317,000.  
  
Total assets are \$405,000, as opposed to last year when they were \$470,000.  
David reported there is also \$3,000 to \$5,000 if the town needs to do any special work for which they need funding.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Deb Carroll motioned to accept the minutes from the April 11, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mark Packard, all in favor- MOTION APPROVED
5. **Other Business:** Lisa updated the Committee regarding grant funding the town received to do a forestry inventory and assessment of 1,500 acres. Great Pond Preserve will be part of this project. Deb Carroll inquired if the funding also included the work- Lisa was going to reach out to Community Development for clarification.

Motion made by Whit Osgood, seconded by Deb Carroll to adjourn- all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Lisa Zerio