

GOSNOLD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 12, 2022

1:00 pm

Present:

Conservation Commission: David Warr, Chairman; Wyatt Garfield, Leo Roy, Michael Parker, Lisa Wright

Also in Attendance: Gail Blout, Michelle Carvalho, Seymour DiMare, Rud Mason, Kate Parker, George Shaw

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Warr at 1:09 pm.

1. STEAM Academy Climate Change Unit

Michelle Carvalho came before the GCC to inform them of the Climate Change Unit she has prepared to teach at the STEAM Academy and to be made aware of any conservation issues that she must consider in teaching this unit.

The unit contains the study of eelgrass. Eelgrass is a carbon sink, it can sequester twice as much carbon as a sizeable tree can. The unit studies: what eelgrass is, what impacts eelgrass, how does it grow and understanding the concept of it being a carbon sink. Part of the unit includes measuring its density in the eelgrass meadow which involves placing a 15 cm PVC square in various places in the eelgrass meadow and estimating the percentage of eelgrass that grows in that square. In addition, there would be water testing in and around the eelgrass meadow to note differences in temperature, oxygen or carbon dioxide as well as turbidity. Michelle has been in contact with Kay Evans, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Phil Colaruso, EPA for additional ideas. There are some straggler eelgrasses in a couple of locations that the students can use to transplant by weaving the eelgrass through a burlap disc which provides an anchor to the sediment that the eelgrass is in. There would be a minimal action within the meadow. The goal is to study the eelgrass, maintain it and hopefully expand it. The area for this study that is most accessible is by the Yacht Club on the opposite side of Church's Beach.

Leo Roy noted that as part of the dinghy dock expansion the DMF required eelgrass monitoring in the area near the dinghy dock and to undertake a restoration project. Since then there has been a natural regeneration in that area. To bring this project to a close Seth Garfield with Foth Engineering must conduct a survey to demonstrate that the natural regeneration has occurred. It may be that Seth Garfield can share this work with the students in addition to their studies in the Cove area.

David Warr suggested that there is nothing in the Climate Change Unit that Michelle has described that the GCC need to take action on. All GCC members agreed.

2. April Meeting Schedule

A NOI for the Fuel Farm is due to be presented to the GCC soon and therefore a hearing will be held at the April meeting for it. To allow for adequate time to post in the newspaper, to ensure all GCC members are present and to discuss the NOI the April meeting will be held on April 15, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Buzzards Bay Coalition Office.

3. Approval of GCC Minutes

Leo Roy made a motion to accept the January 14, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Lisa Wright seconded the motion. All five GCC members voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Parker