

Present: Slim Spafford, Chair, Gina Rescigno, Vice Chair, Ruth Gaffey, Secretary

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m./Rescigno

Minutes of the October meeting were accepted as written (Spafford

Slim brought notes for the Annual Report due in December. Ruth took the notes and will write the report. She will give everyone a copy and get input and approval before submitting it.

Slim read a letter from the Spectacle Pond Association giving the results of recent water testing. All three tests show an improvement in water quality. The Association thanked the town of Groton for making a portapotty available during the year.

Slim and Ruth attended the Annual Conference of the NHACC and reported their impressions. Ruth attended the Fundamentals of Conservation Commissions and asked Slim to get a complete account of our funding in addition to the annual budget. Of particular interest is what percentage of the Current Use tax might be coming to the Conservation Commission. Possible projects requiring funding might be the second phase of the NRI and making the Town Pond a more useful environment for education and enjoyment.

The Fundamentals workshop also stressed the importance of having a person from the Conservation Commission be part of the Planning Commission. Ray is our Liaison to/from the Planning Commission. We will ask him to make a report at each Conservation Commission regarding what is being considered by the Planning Commission and potential impacts on areas of concern to the Commission if any.

Slim and Ruth attended workshops related to the Natural Resource Inventory process. It was agreed we need to set aside one or more meetings in early 2020 to go over the phase one report in detail and discuss possible areas of focus for a second phase. We agreed the only reason for a phase two is if there are areas of focus that are of particular importance to Groton residents that need to be addressed.

Ruth attended a workshop given by the Northeast Recycling Recovery Association which discussed recycling in the current economic environment. Groton was the only town in attendance that is not recycling. Recycling separated items is still netting a profit. Items that earn the most money are aluminum and plastics numbers one and two. Getting residents to compost their food waste is a big help in reducing the weight of town trash pickup and reducing methane gas from landfills.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

Submitted by

Ruth Gaffey