



Thames River Basin Partnership January 19, 2021 Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator,

Special Presentation:

The special presentation for this meeting featured Tom Olson and Larry Dunn of the Town of Groton Conservation Commission. They provided an overview of the Towns *Open Space and Conservation Plan*. The Plan had not been updated 30 years. The new open space plan includes economic considerations of the land as well as the natural resource conservation. In a 17-month process, with the involvement of the local community, they developed seven priority concerns. They also developed an economic model to determine a score-based comparison. The key recommendations in this plan include the expansion of green belts based on economic and habitat resource needs and to maximize the potential score when applying for open space funding assistance. Although not required, the final plan was presented at a public hearing. The presentation was recorded and can be viewed at this link <https://youtu.be/WIsQgGKp0ZO>. The documents featured in the presentation are available at https://www.groton-ct.gov/government/boards_and_commissions/conservation/documents.php. The location of these documents may be temporary.

TRBP meeting notes from Fall 2020 were approved by consensus.

TRBP Financial Report: There has been no activity on the account. The current balance is \$1262.57. Due to a billing error at GoDaddy, the website renewal/domain name fees have yet to be charge to the account.

TRBP Coordinator Report

The backlog of TRBP newsletters is caught up and uploaded to the TRBP website library, along with the annual report, meeting agenda and minutes. It was discovered in late December that the TRBP website editing function was not working. The TRBP Coordinator, with the assistance of Cayrn Oresky, the website designer invested many hours trying to resolve the issues. At the time of the Winter meeting, the issues had not been resolved. (Note: That issues are now repaired, and the website is once again functioning and up to date.)

A reminder was issued that the TRBP Plan of Work is set to expire in 2021. All partners were asked to review the current plan of work and to be prepared to discuss updating the plan at the April 2021 meeting.

The TRBP Facebook page is up to 135 followers.

TRBP Floating Workshop 2021

Ideas for a Covid-19 compatible TRBP Floating Workshop were discussed. With the expectation that Covid-19 will still be an issue in summer, it was agreed that a bring your own boat event would be the best solution. Two themes were suggested: a revisit to the Shetucket River to review updates since 2007 bus tour, or a paddle in an embayment in the Town of Groton. Consensus was to investigate a Town of Groton shoreline paddle, theme to be determined. Potential partners featured in this paddle might include the Town of Groton, Project Oceanology, Avalonia.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports have been compiled into the Winter 2021 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from TRBP website.

Next meeting will be on April 20, 2021 and will be held virtually via Zoom.

Meeting notes prepared by Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator. These meeting notes are considered draft until approved at the next TRBP meeting.