

THE HERRING PONDS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 15, 2019

42 Carter's Bridge, Plymouth

Submitted by Secretary Margaret Burke

Present: Don Williams, Geri Williams, John Foye, Ramona Krogman, Beth Soboloff, Phil Angell, Patrice O'Connor, Lee Pulis, Jerry Levine, Margaret Burke

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Don Williams. The first order of business was the March balance sheet. **There was a motion to approve the March balance sheet and it was seconded and passed unanimously.** There was a discussion of the 2019 HPWA budget. **There was a motion to accept the budget which was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Next the minutes of the March 18, 2019 BOD meeting were up for approval. **There was a motion to approve the minutes with a second and they passed unanimously.**

There was a discussion on water quality testing for nitrates and e-coli to identify sources of pollution. It was decided that some testing should be conducted at the springhead of LHP and the outflow as well as somewhere in the middle of the pond.

Ramona reported that there were no herring spotted yet. She will order t-shirts for the counters. Also, she reported on the Plymouth Conservation Commission meeting of April 19, 2019 on proposed Amendments for The Rules and Regulations for the Plymouth Wetlands Protections Bylaw, Chapter 196. Of particular interest was a proposed change to consider the full impact of proposed developments, rather than considering impact on a lot by lot basis. Ramona also referenced two MA House Bills, **768** (an Act to promote regionalization with watershed based permitting) and MA House Bill **869** (relative to loans for failed septic systems, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture). It was decided that a letter of support would be sent for Ma House Bill **768**.

Lee gave a report on The Little Red School House status. It is still undecided what it will be used for and a committee of five is being formed by application to the Plymouth Assistant Town Manager to address said use.

There was also a discussion about the proposed changes to the HPWA logo and membership guide. Phil suggested we let the Membership Committee "run with it" as was decided at the last BOD meeting.

Geri gave the Program Committee report. It was suggested that the Herring Run Ladder be brought to the HPWA Picnic and possibly the Shed Faire event. Phil will chair the Picnic on August 3rd. Geri proposed that Ivan Mikolji make a slide presentation at the General Meeting at Wildlands Trust on June 30th. The Shed Faire is July 13th. and a large item such as a canoe or sail boat would be a good addition to the current offerings which are being stored in Phil's garage. Lee said April 22nd, Monday, is Earth Day. On Saturday, April 27th. at the 2019 Herring Run Event, HPWA will participate by providing the Herring Run Ladder activity for kids. He gave a status update of this project.

Don said that a nominating committee needs to be formed to nominate individuals for the offices of Secretary and Vice President. It was decided that Don, Martha and Brian will comprise the committee.

The next board meetings are May 21st. (right after the General Meeting of May 19th.) June 17th., July 29th. The Annual Meeting will be either August 12th. or August 19th.

There was a motion at adjourn at 9:20 p.m. and a second to it with the motion passing unanimously.

HPWA BOD Meeting Agenda 04/15/19

- 1) BOD Meeting 03/19/19 minutes approval -- Peg
- 2) Treasurer's March Balance Sheet Report – John
- 3) Budget Review -- John
- 4) Committee Reports – Any Questions?

5) Old Business

- a) Herring Count Status – Ramona
- b) Little Red Schoolhouse Summary – Lee
- c) Conservation Commission By-Laws – Ramona, All

6) New Business

- a) Earth Day, Herring Run Celebration -- Lee
- b) HPWA Picnic Plans -- All
- c) General Meeting Dates – Geri, Peg
- d) BOD Meeting Dates -- All

- 7) Any other business?
- 8) Adjournment

April 15, 2019
Don Williams, Co-Chair

Board of Directors,

The activities and plans of the Water Quality Committee are summarized below:

Activities:

- Jim Smith's March LHP E. coli sample was low (<5) as was the nitrate sample (0.06 g/l).

Plans:

- Don will talk to Neal Price of Horsley Witten to try to verify the runoff/phosphorous/algae bloom cycle hypothesis.
- Don will also talk to Ed Eichner about the hypothesis.
- A nitrate sample of LHP at-large will be taken in the future to compare with the nitrate sample at the spring site.
- Don will talk to Plymouth engineering about possible alternative runoff solutions when things slow down a bit for Plymouth Engineering.
- An April sample will be important for future years and will be taken.
- I'd like to set something up with Vinnie deMacedo, also to tell him what we think may be happening with runoff.

EduCom Report – for April 15, 2019 BoD Meeting – Lee Pulis

Youth Camperships – YMCA Camp Clark extended an invitation for our board to tour the camp by arrangement if interested. Other camps might do the same if desired.

Herring Woman - was sick and could not be at Manomet Elementary STEAM night on March 27.

Alper north end boundary marking – Patrice O'Connor joined Jim Smith, Lee, and Mike Cahill for a good walk around the north end of LHP. DMEA is sending letters about bounds to abutters.

Shed Faire item gathering – All BoD members please step up promoting donations among friends, neighbors, and pond associations. Suggest they can store their donated items ahead of time at Phil's garage. [What suggestions do you have for other onsite activities?](#) Note: If logo change happens, current signage can be sold at Shed Faire.



[**WAA Conference**](#) – For those who missed it and refreshing for those attending, all presentation slide PDFs are now available, hyperlinked within the online conference schedule. Community TV video links will be posted soon.

Annual Town River Herring Run Fish Parade and Celebration – Earth Day and Earth Week: Monday, April 22 at 10 AM Governor Baker will visit to the honor the Town Brook restoration. On Wednesday, [April 24, at 7 PM Abigail Archer](#) will give a talk on PIT-tagging Town Brook herring at Wildlands Trust.

Then, ready your fish costumes, fish hats, and fish sticks for a kid and adult fish parade (Saturday at 10 AM) starting at the waterfront and proceeding up Town Brook to the grist mill festival site.



TRACKING THE TOWN BROOK TRAVELERS

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Wildlands Trust
675 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA,
02360, United States (map)

Tracking the Town Brook Travelers - River Herring Migration Before and After the Removal of Holmes Dam: Join Marine Resource Specialist Abigail Archer for this presentation about the current research at Town Brook after the removal of Holmes Dam. Researchers are using a tracking technology called passive integrated transponder, or PIT, to discover if the dam removal has helped river herring reach their spawning grounds in Billington Sea.

Brought to you in partnership with the Town of Plymouth Marine and Environmental Affairs.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

Teri Kreitzer, Rali and 4.5-yr-old Ava have helped with kid-testing the rope “fish ladder”, crawl tunnel “culvert” and return slide components of our new educational herring migration activity. Phil and Lee and Teri are working on predator props. Some like the Great Blue Heron are nearly ready...just needing final tutu adjustments:



Predators



Culvert



Fish ladder

NOAA Fish Biologist Eric Hutchins leads walking tour

20 Years of Fisheries Restoration on Town Brook

Tours at 11:00am and 1:00 pm

PLIMOTH PLANTATION

NOTE: Simply meet at the Plimoth Grist Mill at 6 Spring Lane

 Plimoth Grist Mill, reconstructed on the original 1626 site. River herring provided food for early settlers as well as power to run mills. In 2002, many spring fish runs diverted to dangerous locks.

Since 2002, concerned citizens, Massachusetts Division of Marine Resources, NOAA and many partner organizations worked to provide necessary habitat for fish populations to recover.

 The National Marine Fisheries Service has been working cooperatively with the Town of Plymouth and many other project partners since 1997 to restore migratory fish passage and the aquatic habitat of Town Brook. This walking tour will include 4 completed dam removal projects, 2 fish ladders as well as special attention to the ongoing removal of Holmes Dam.

 Eric Hutchins, a fisheries restoration biologist with the NOAA Restoration Center has spent over 25 years working to restore aquatic habitats necessary to support marine fisheries in the Gulf of Maine region. His work has included supporting dozens of dam removals, marsh restoration, fish ladders and local stewardship projects. During this demonstration, Eric will present the life cycle and ecological role of American eels, alewife, blueback herring, and rainbow smelt. Included in this event are American eels and river herring, live and up close!

 **NOAA FISHERIES**

Thanks to the Town of Plymouth and NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center for supporting this event.

**PLIMOTH[®]
PLANTATION**



Herring Run

APRIL 27, 2019 | 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

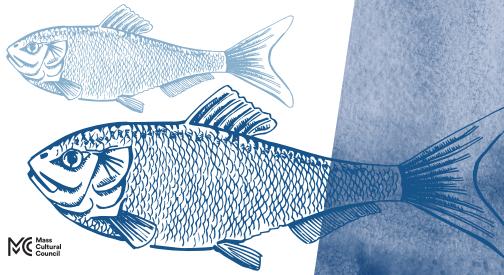
PLIMOTH GRIST MILL

6 SPRING LANE PLYMOUTH, MA

Be a citizen scientist and welcome the river herring back to Town Brook! Join in a fish parade and cheer on the herring as they voyage up the brook to lay their eggs. Help scientists count fish, learn about eels, and discover the importance of herring to the Wampanoag. See the mill in action while enjoying special family activities and samples of "a-maize-ing" treats made with Plimoth Grist Mill's signature flours.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FREE!

Admission to Plimoth Grist Mill free to Plymouth residents. Separate admission for non-residents.



DMEA Mobile Wildlife Education Trailer Project – Our \$500 donation check was delivered to DMEA and received email thanks from David Gould on March 21 and commitment to order the river herring taxidermy by Marc Brulpot.

In-kind logging – If you have not already done so, remember to send Linda White an accounting of your in-kind volunteer hours. This will greatly assist documenting Town- or HPWA-initiated non-cash grant matches.

Facebook social media posts since last report: All posts are public and viewable at <https://www.facebook.com/HerringPondWatershedAssociation/>

Apr 11: Herring Run Celebration flyer – Plimoth Plantation, NOAA, Town of Plymouth

Apr 10: Save-the-date, April 27, for Annual Herring Run Celebration

Apr 7: Completion of count first week with contacts for new volunteers

Apr 6: WAA conf photos and links to presentation slides

Apr 1: Herring count start and volunteer appeal

Mar 29: Shared WAA pre-conference post

Mar 25: Herring count pre-start with photos, volunteer appeal, and training videos

Mar 22: Phil's video of spotted salamanders (658 reach; 120 engagements, 4 shares)

Mar 21: Martha's video of red fox

Mar 20: Posted May 4th Hometown Cleanup poster

Mar 16: Posted 9 photos of Red-bellied cooter program plus presentation slides

2019.4.12 Newsletter and Program Report

Programs:

Jerry has set up a public program with Michael Talbot speaking on using native plants in our landscaping for May 19 at 2pm at Wildlands Trust. I need more information from Jerry to write up a press release and an article for our newsletter. We need to discuss how we want to handle registration for this program.

I have sent an email to Ivan Mikolji with the dates of June 29, 30 or July 13 or 14, asking him to do a program with his photos taken in the watershed and descriptions of what he has found here.

If I do not get a response from Ivan or he is unable to do it in June or July. I will contact the owners of Cape Cod Butterflies to see if they could do a program then. I think that even if Ivan can do a summer program, I will ask George and Ann Morse, the butterfly people to do a program at our August Annual meeting. We usually have a short program in August and then a social time.

John Foye sent me the name and contact information for Mike Burns at MMA regarding the small tanker training program. However he was going to be away until March 25 and then we were gone. If the consensus is that this would be a good program, I will contact him for the fall meeting or earlier if Ivan or the butterfly programs don't work out.

Newsletter:

Since we will be having a meeting on May 19, I plan to send out a Spring newsletter by May 13. Hence I will need everyone's articles by **May 8th**.

Would anyone like to write an article about butterfly friendly plants for our backyards with some photos to go with information about Teri Pekol's milkweed plugs? I don't think we can devote the entire issue to this topic, but we can certainly do a page or so. This will also tie in with our May program on landscaping with more native plants.

Lee, I hope you will have some pictures of your very ingenious 'herring run' activity at the Herring Festival for the newsletter. Also we should probably have a significant article on the Shed Faire.

Do we have a date yet for the HPWA Picnic to include a save the date?

Paula, I presume that you would like to include information on Water safety.

I expect articles from all the other committees as usual.

Other suggestions and articles are welcome by May 8.
Geri

 JL

From: Jerry Levine jersail123@gmail.com

Subject: Invasive species committee report

Date: April 14, 2019 at 9:17 AM

To: Don Williams donald_r_williams2003@yahoo.com, Geri Williams geri3williams@comcast.net, Lee Pullis leepulis@gmail.com, Martha Sheldon martha.sheldon205@gmail.com, John B. and Carol A. Foye skipjbfoye@aol.com, Ramona Krogman ramiek99@hotmail.com, Paula Kuketz kuketz33@verizon.net, Philip Angell angell_phil@yahoo.com, Jack Kedian jkedian1@hotmail.com, Margaret Burke burke-margaret@comcast.net, Brian Harrington brianharrington205@gmail.com, Beth Sobilooff bsobilooff@comcast.net

Hello All:

I have arranged with Michael Talbot to present a seminary at Wildland's Trust on May 19th. The title is "Native Plant Landscaping". I have requested that Michael email me a brief outline that we can use for marketing purposes. All necessary arrangements have been taken care of with Wildland's and Michael. We will be providing Michael a \$100.00 stipend. This should be an interesting seminar

Sara Grady has volunteered to sample for invasive aquatic plants in both of our ponds this summer. We will provide a boat and canoe for her use along with a number of our members. volunteers are appreciated.

Ramona requested that I provide training for new herring counters. I have 4 new counters trained as of last Friday. Any other counters interested contact me.

Regards
Jerry

Jerry Levine
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Plymouth, MA, 02360

781-985-5225
jersail123@gmail.com

April Report- Government Liaison

R. Krogman

Notes from Conservation Commission Meeting on April 2, 2019

The Plymouth Conservation Commission meeting on April 2 included public comment on proposed Amendments to The Rules and Regulations for The Plymouth Wetlands Protections Bylaw, Chapter §196.

Amendments were posted 48 hours in advance, however, side by side analysis of the regulations were last minute.

The changes in the regulations include:

- additional definitions of areas covered by ConCom. This includes an extended definition of ACEC, mentioning Great Herring Ponds Watershed.
- More extensive and ‘plain language’ sections on the requirements for submissions to ConCom.
- New sections defining activities allowed and restricted in the buffer strip (Section 10 F).
 - Pruning, cutting, clearing and planting are in Section 10 J.
 - Lawns, allowed fertilizers and restrictions are in Section 10 K
 - Preparation for Climate Change is described in Section 10 M

The proposed changes include considering the cumulative impact of proposals. When asked directly, the ConCom said they would consider the full impact of proposed developments, rather than considering impact on a lot by lot basis. This is a change for the commission. This new view of projects is reflected throughout the proposed changed.

Attendees at the meeting were mostly residents of Saquish. Many were returning to the area after wintering elsewhere. They were upset at the lack of notification, however there is no requirement to send notification to out of state residents. The main concerns they voiced were based on the septic systems. The proposed changes were read as ConCom extending their authority in to areas covered by the Health Dept. and a perception that if their septic systems failed, they would not be allowed to repair or replace them.

There were questions about the jurisdiction of the ConCom and its approval by town meeting. This referred to **Article 32: Town Meeting will be asked to require that the Conservation Commission receive Town Meeting approval for any new rules and regulations it adopts. Town meeting voted against Article 32.**

One attendee, J. Stephen Bjorklund of Diamond Development was very critical of the changes, offering to help the ConCom rewrite them. The discussion devolved into grammar discussions at one point and was brought back on track by the Commissions chair.

After lengthy discussions, the board voted to close the public comments section, however not to vote on the changes.

The April 16 meeting has a discussion of next steps on the Bylaws.

Town Meeting articles of potential interest:

Article 15: Town Meeting will be asked to spend \$185,000 to develop a new contract for interim operations of the waste water treatment plant, as the town's contract with Veolia expires in June of 2021. **This was approved.** It may be the first steps to a town run system.

(Spring Special Warrant) Article 16: Town Meeting will be asked to amend its bylaws to include Stormwater Pollution Abatement bylaws. **Approved**

Article 4: Town Meeting will be asked to authorize the Cedarville Steering Committee and Plymouth Center Steering Committee to continue to meet. **Approved**

Article 18: Town Meeting will be asked to amend the town's charter to include a provision that the Select Board shall seek to appoint a medical physician to the Board of Health, when reasonably feasible. **Approved**

Article 24: Town Meeting will be asked to revise the town's zoning map to add Redbrook Development's Zone II to the aquifer protection district. **Revised**

State budget 2020

The State budget process has begun. Deadline for amendments was Friday April 5 at 5:00 PM.

Amendment 741 proposed by Kay Khan adds/earmarks \$350,000 for aquatic invasive species control and increases the line item by this amount.

New Bills

House Bill 768: An Act to promote regionalization with watershed based permitting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

The Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct a feasibility study for the implementation of watershed-based permitting. The department shall complete a report of its findings within 1 year of the effective date of this act. A copy of the report shall be provided to the governor, the clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

EPA definition: Watershed-based permitting is a process that emphasizes addressing all stressors within a hydrologically defined drainage basin, rather than individual pollutant sources on a discharge-by-discharge basis. Watershed-based permitting can encompass a variety of activities ranging from synchronizing permits within a basin to developing water quality-based effluent limits using a multiple discharger modeling analysis.

The type of permitting activity will vary depending on the unique characteristics of the watershed and the sources of pollution affecting it. The ultimate goal of this effort is to develop and issue NPDES permits that optimally protect entire watersheds. EPA's Water Quality Trading Policy describes flexible approaches to meeting water quality requirements.

House Bill H869: Relative to loans for failed septic systems. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. This links programs to repair or replace failed systems with the nitrogen levels in near-by bodies of water.