

The Herring Ponds Watershed Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 26, 2019

161 Roxy Cahoon Road, Plymouth

Submitted by Secretary Margaret Burke

Present: Phil Angell, John Foye, Jerry Levine, Lee Pulis, Zack Tympanick (HPWA Intern), Margaret Burke, Beth Sobiloff, Don Williams and Geri Williams by phone.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice President Phil Angell.

1. Malcolm MacGregor Water Supply Protection

Malcolm MacGregor, Chair of the Planning Board, presented Article # 24 and Article #25 which will be presented at Spring Town Meeting which address transferring land to the Water Commission (#24) and the Conservation Commission (#25). **There was a motion to approve Don writing a letter to Town Meeting Reps. in support of the articles and it was seconded and unanimously approved.**

2. Zack Tympanick Water Testing Protocol Discussion

Zack gave a visual presentation of his final report at Rising Tide Charter School including a model for algae blooms, nitrate data as an indicator of pond quality and the importance of increasing the amount of DO monitoring since it reflects phosphorous desorption from pond sediment.

3. BOD minutes approval from December 18,2018

There was a motion to approve the December 18, 2018 BOD minutes and it was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers report and proposed budget, John

There was a motion to approve the treasurers report which showed an ending balance of \$22,586.52 as of 12/31/2018 and a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John asked that board members submit their committee budgets as soon as possible.

5. Committee Reports

a. Education Committee items for vote and review. Lee

Lee said that he has spoken to representatives of Camp Bournedale, Camp Clark and Hedges Pond Day Camp about HPWA donating \$500.00 to each camp for camperships at the 50% level. He said money raised at the Shed Faire in July could help fund the scholarships. **Don made a motion that HPWA contribute \$1,500 to the 3 camps { HPWA to contribute \$500 each to the three camps with a total of \$1,500.00} and Peggy seconded it and the motion passed unanimously**

Lee proposed a new date, July 13th. for the Shed Faire, to accommodate the snowbirds. This was accepted. It will be held at the Cedarville Fire Station pending venue approval by the Fire Department. Donations can be stored in Phil's garage. Promoting donations and event activities was discussed.

Lee also discussed updating the website. Beth Sobiloff, when introduced, explained key concepts and their website functionality.

The milkweed plug growing/distribution was discussed in conjunction with Tidmarsh Living Conservancy with the actual butterfly component scheduled for the following year.

Lee also gave an update on the Hedges Pond Hall renovation. Bill Keohan has been dealing with the work that needs to be done on the building i.e. electrical, ADA compliant bathrooms and office space for the recreation department and will be going to Town Meeting to get approval for it

6. Introduction of Beth Sobiloff, Phil

Phil introduced Beth Sobiloff who has been working with Lee on updating the HPWA website. **There was a motion to accept Beth as HPWA webmaster, out-**

of-area member, and HPWA Board of Directors Member. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

7. WAA conference participation (volunteer needed). Don

There are now enough volunteers. One paid admission available. Suggested power point/slide presentation points should be sent to Lee.

8. Membership mailing for WAA Conference. Don
Don will work with Martha on a mailing.

9. Discussion of future public meetings, Geri

Geri suggested possible public meeting topics: Little Tanker; Ivan Mikolji; Butterflies of Cape Cod; Monarch Butterfly Project.

10. Future BOD meeting dates

Future BOD 2019 meeting dates were selected: April 15th. and May 21st. March 18 was already set. March 16th. is the public meeting.

11. Update on high visibility vest order, Ramona

Vests would cost from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and there would be a need for about 12.

12. Info on Asian Longhorn Ticks, Jerry

Ticks not in MA. yet but close by. Next year might be a good time for a public program on this tick.

13. Update on proposed dumping of contaminants at landfill

Peggy told board members about the Old Colony Newspaper article on this issue and advised that there were about 40 people at the Cedarville Steering Committee hearing where residents heard from town officials about the town dredging project. The State, DEP, is going to set the standard for determining if the proposal would be safe for the environment. The state has deemed that some of the 96,000 cubic yards of sediment (separate from the on-going federal dredging) that the town is removing from the harbor contains DDT and must be deposited in a landfill instead of back in the ocean. There has been scientific

observation of how ocean organisms react to the sample - seeing if they die or are negatively impacted by it. Material with this negative impact would be a candidate for the landfill. The operational life of the proposed landfill lining is apparently not known and the multiple past serious contaminations of this site were discussed in the article. Plymouth would save 19 million dollars by keeping the sediment in town.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded with the motion passing unanimously.

HPWA
BOD Meeting Agenda
2/26/2019

New and Ongoing business:

1. Malcolm MacGregor Water Supply Protection
2. Zach Tympanick water testing protocol discussion
3. BOD minutes approval from December 18, 2018
4. Treasurers report and proposed budget, John
5. Committee reports
 - a. Education Committee items for vote and review, Lee
6. Introduction of Beth Sobilof, Phil
7. WAA conference participation (volunteer needed), Don
8. Membership mailing for WAA conference, Don
9. Discussion of future public meetings, Geri
10. Future BOD meeting dates
11. Update on high visibility vest order, Ramona
12. Info on Asian Longhorn Ticks, Jerry
13. Update on proposed dumping of contaminants at landfill

Dates of future mtgs, programs, picnic, etc.

EduCom Report – for February 18, 2019 BoD Meeting – Lee Pulis

The Education Committee met Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Lee's home, 921 Long Pond Rd. Members in attendance were: Phil Angell, Linda White, Beth Sobilloff, Teri Kreitzer, and Lee

Approximately 14 topics were discussed per the committee's agenda included at the end of this report. Following are key topics for Board consideration, discussion, questions, decision-making, and/or action:

Funding ACEC Youth Camperships - Lee discussed with Derek Paiva of YMCA Camp Clark, Ann Slusser of Plymouth Recreation Dept's Hedges Pond Park, and Darin Fabrizio of Camp Bournedale. All were pleased to have support for those in need, and flexible in how to work out details, share what others do, etc. Scholarships for costs as shown below could reach twice as many youth if made on a 50% assistance basis rather than full ride. This was recommended by Ann, as their experience is it better guarantees attendance if the family has a financial stake. My conclusion is that \$500 per camp (\$1500 total) could be applied to support 50% camperships and counselor-in-training costs for 2 youth to attend Camp Bournedale, plus 4 youth at Camp Clark, and perhaps 5-6 at Hedges Pond. [Vote to proceed?](#)

Camp <u>Bournedale</u> 1-week day camp, ages 7-14	- \$480
Camp Clark 1-week basic day camp, ages 6-12 (Non-member)	- \$225
Camp Clark 1-week Leader in Training camp, ages 13-14 (NM)	- \$225
Hedges Pond 4-week half-day playground camp, ages 4-12	- \$220
Hedges Pond 4-week CIT camp (half days), ages 13-15	- <u>\$160</u>
Total, one each of all above:	\$1310

Shed Faire Planning – Previous thoughts of April have shifted to July to include HPWA snowbirds. Saturday, July 13 is proposed. Phil will check on Cedarville Fire Station as venue. All should begin promoting donations, which can be stored ahead of time at Phil's garage. Suggestions for a scope of activities are welcome. – [Consensus/approval on date, subject to clearance with venue](#)

Registering to attend [WAA Conference](#) - \$25 registration fee, 8-4:00, Friday, March 29, at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson. Interns and students are free...Rising Tide has been invited to spread the word. As a \$250 sponsor, HPWA is invited to prepare and present a 5-minute slide presentation using a provided PowerPoint template and instructions: *The slides are timed - 15 slides, 20 seconds apiece for a total of 5 minutes. The slides will automatically advance. You can deviate from the suggested content somewhat but not add or remove slides, or change the timing. Make sure to include lots of photos!* [Who is registering and who volunteers to present?](#)

Website Updating and Webmastering - Beth Sobilloff and Lee have reviewed our current website and ongoing updating issues. Beth talked with GoDaddy about our current platform version, which has been superseded, and the pros and cons of transitioning. Beth will propose to the Board volunteering to design a new website on the popular WordPress platform and to maintain ongoing updates. In the meantime Lee will maintain the existing site. It is critical that we plan further ahead, setting dates for programs and events as was done in the past, so that pages or topics important to membership, such as **News and Events** can be completed for 2019. – [Consensus/approval to proceed on Beth’s proposal](#)

Milkweed/Monarch Project - Teri Pekol Kreitzer is coordinating with Glorianna at Tidmarsh Living Observatory on plug growing and distribution. [Teri may be able to attend our Board meeting to summarize their recommendations.](#)

Hedges Pond Hall renovation update – Bill Keohan says getting the underground electric lines located and electricity “on” this past summer has allowed him to have security spotlights on, plus availability of basic interior lights for taking contractors through to get bids. (Previously Betty had said her contractor husband could handle much of the volunteer labor...this may be a wrinkle of a Town-owned building.) Bill’s aim is to bid out interior electrical this spring and to get ADA compliant bathrooms and an office space for the recreation department for three-season use. He will need to go to Town meeting for approval, while he is recently fending off Town Manager and others seeking appropriations of CPC funds. He said he knows Betty is under the weather, but she may also respond regarding the disposition of HPWA and PYF project funds.

Annual Town Herring Festival – Saturday, April 27 –Publicity will begin soon, and I have been asked if HPWA will again attend. I will say yes, but [it would be great to have some volunteers to man our table and activity.](#) Teri has suggested we might color fish hats this year, and is incubating a plan for a possible kids’ activity: a hay bale fish ladder maze.



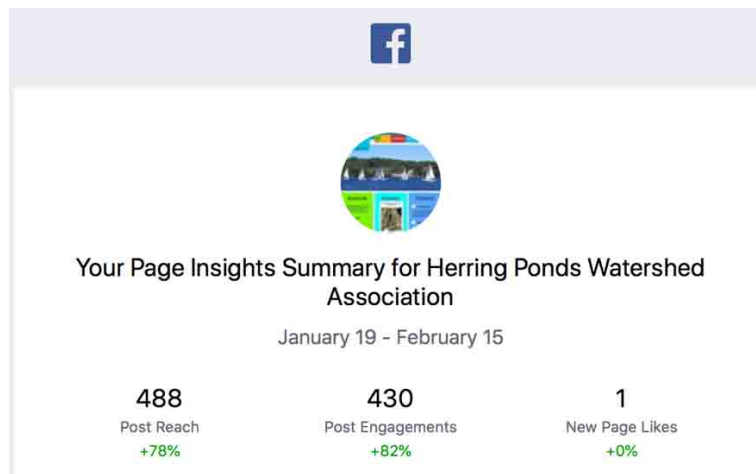
DMEA Educational Trailer Project – While at Town Hall last week I learned of DMEA Warden Marc Brulport’s project to obtain and equip a 28-foot trailer to take to schools, Scout groups, clubs, and environmental events. A grant app is pending for trailer purchase. Additional funds would be needed to outfit the interior. The project is encouraged by David Gould to address the

apparent “nature appreciation deficit.” Marc is gathering taxidermy of fish, mammals and birds, and will appreciate any such donations. [Marc will welcome any financial support as well, and will provide community recognition by having supporters’ logos on the trailer sides.](#)

In-Kind Logging - Remember to record and report your monthly/quarterly volunteer hours to Linda White, who has graciously volunteered to compile a log, so HPWA can offer documented in-kind grant matches (in lieu of cash) toward various projects.

Facebook social media posts since last report (wider contributions welcome):

- Feb 14: Chris Lewis’s photos of Juvie Bald Eagle enjoying Valentine’s Day fish breakfast
- Feb 12: Great Backyard Bird Count notice and link
- Feb 12: Photo of a new screech owl in HPWA box – by Chris Lewis on east shore of GHP
- Feb 11: Photo of Valentine heart-shaped suet with list of bird courting behaviors
- Feb 9: Chris Lewis’s photo of a skittery scattering of Buffleheads skidaddling on GHP
- Feb 2: Groundhog Day photo
- Jan 31: Share of beached sail catamaran photo by Bourne Dept of Natural Resources
- Jan 30: Share of SEMPBA’s Hawthaway Nature Center opening announcement
- Jan 29: Announcing HPWA/Tidmarsh milkweed sprouting project with Monarch webinar link
- Jan 29: Share of OCM article on dredging and possible spoil deposits to Cedarville landfill
- Jan 27: Share of photo post of Brian presenting locally about Citizen’s Climate Lobby
- Jan 27: Save the Date (March 29) share of WAA Conference post
- Jan 22: Photo of Zach presenting about his HPWA internship at Rising Tide
- Jan 17: Photo of Jim Smith collecting LHP spring sample with link to OCM IsoScape proj descrip
- Jan 15: TrailCam daytime video of Great Blue Herring courting at LHP otter scrape
- Jan 14: TrailCam night videos of wildlife communication crossroads at LHP
- Dec 31: Happy New Year banner with 20-yr herring count graph plus suggested resolutions
- Dec 23: TrailCam night video of deer – Santa’s friends scouting the watershed
- Dec 17: Shared Mikolji post and welcomed him back to watershed for the holidays



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Agenda Items – HPWA Educom Mtg, Feb 13, 2019 – Annotated post-mtg.

- Arranging 50% camperships/support donations at Camps Clark, Bournedale, and Hedges Pond
- Setting Shed Faire fundraiser date, place, and scope for support of camperships – Sat, July 13? Phil to check on Cedarville Fire Station
 - Promoting Shed Faire donations – advance storage at Phil’s garage
 - DMEA Educational trailer – 28 footer with taxidermy – Warden Marc Brulport
- Check status of in-school 3rd grade herring programming - ✓ Geri emailed Jennifer Nolan 2/7/19
- For follow-up: YMCA afterschool program (500 kids) potential audience for Herring Woman & comics in April-May – Plenty of comics - Lee
- Sat, March 16, 2 PM HPWA Public Program at Wildlands Trust – Red-bellied cooters
- Register to attend WAA Conference + HPWA 5-minute presentation – Friday, March 29
- HPWA presence and activity at annual Town Herring Festival – Saturday, April 27 – Teri has ideas for coloring fish hats, and possibly a hay bale fish ladder maze
- Plymouth Hometown Cleanup – Saturday, May 4 - Phil will check in with Patrick Farah, and Linda will organize neighbors to do Little Herring Pond Rd
- Updating Website 2019 News and Events page + Facebook post topics, photos – Beth will propose to Board designing and maintaining a new site on easier to use WordPress platform
- Logging our in-kind hours for grant match – submit to Linda
 - Hedges Pond Hall status – Lee – update from Bill Keohan on 2/14/19

Possibly also:

- Volunteer herring count – April 1–May 31 – Ramona – other sites are now recruiting volunteers
 - Milkweed sprouting and plug distribution for planting with Tidmarsh – Teri will coordinate with Glorianna. (✓ email sent 7/15) Plants sprouted this Spring will not support caterpillars until next year. Distribution might be a featured possibility for Shed Faire.

February 18, 2019

Board of Directors,

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

Activities:

- Jim Smith's December E. coli sample was low but the December nitrate sample was high (0.39); there were 47 swans (higher than recently) on LHP when samples were taken.
- Jim Smith's January E. coli sample was low and the January nitrate sample had returned to its typical low (0.07) level. There were 48 swans on LHP when samples were taken.
- Zach his final report at Rising Tide Charter School with Lee and Jerry in attendance. As a result of his work, a model for algae blooms has been proposed, nitrate data has been suggested as an indicator of pond quality (samples should be taken April, July or August, and October) and the importance of increasing the amount of DO monitoring has been justified since it can affect phosphorus desorption from pond sediment.
- Kim Tower (Plymouth) has told me that Plymouth will pay for 3 samplings. We will have to cover the cost of the April sample because it was not included in the Plymouth fiscal year budget. Kim has a boat and will take the April sample. The cost would be \$400 and will be brought up for approval at the BOD meeting.
- Nothing further from the DPW on setting up a regional DPW runoff remediation task force. Jon Beder did not get a new job elsewhere.
- Don and Jerry attended a 2 day Cape Cod water conference where the runoff/phosphorus/algae bloom hypothesis was conceded as possible by the experts polled and we learned that many Cape Cod communities are farming oysters to clean up estuary water.
- In response to an inquiry prompted by Zach's study of nitrate results, we asked Kim if it would be possible for SMAST to test for nitrate on future samples. Kim replied that the nitrate values should be derivable from data already taken and she would ask Ed Eichner to provide the nitrate data from all past testing.
- The Bartlett Pond/Creek cyanobacteria discovery has heightened community awareness of the value of good water quality in our ponds.

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.
- The WQC will work with Plymouth to develop new bylaws to protect wetlands and the Plymouth-Carver aquifer.
- Kim Tower told Jack, Jerry and Don that remediation of additional runoff sites will be difficult either due to high water table, limited space for catchment basins or lack of a paved road. Don will talk to Plymouth engineering about possible alternative runoff solutions when things slow down a bit for Plymouth Engineering.

Programs and Newsletter Chair report

Programs:

Our 1st program of year will be on Plymouth's rare and endemic Red Bellied Cooter at Wildlands Trust on March 16 at 2pm. Presentation by Brian Bastarache and some of his students at Bristol County Agricultural HS who head start turtles. I offered Brian a \$100 donation to their Natural Resources Program.

I sent the announcement to Rachel Calderera for Wildlands Trust member distribution.

I have sent an announcement to OCM and Wicked Local to publicize program. I've emailed Sharl Heller at SEMPBA to see if she could bring a small turtle if they are raising any this year as Brian said he could not bring any. I also sent her the announcement to share with SEMPBA members.

If you approve I will send the announcement out to the Plymouth Garden Club members in a week or two.

I emailed Ivan Mikolji, our Venezuelan photographer friend, to try and get some information from him as to when he will be in Plymouth this summer and might be able to do a talk and slide presentation for HPWA with some of the photos he has taken on our ponds.

Other ideas for future programs which have been suggested: bats; global warming effects on birds and animals; Mass Maritimes little tanker training program; Butterflies of Cape Cod; septic system maintenance. I would like some guidance on which of these or any other idea the Board would like me to pursue.

Not a program, but a project that I think would be good to pursue is stenciling 'DUMP NO WASTE' signs with our logo near street drains in our watershed. I have done some Internet research and a lot of communities have done projects like this. I think this could be a good summer project to get more members/volunteers involved. The agenda for this meeting is very full, but I wanted to plant the seed so to speak for discussion at a future meeting.

Newsletter:

I think the winter newsletter should go out early March. This will serve as another reminder to our members to register for the March 16 Turtle program, and keep our work in the minds of our members.

I will set a **deadline for articles** and contributions of **February 27**.

Some contents:

Don: Presidents letter and water quality. (Perhaps a summary of Zach's work, photo and a thank you)

Lee: Education Committee report and a separate article on the Shed Faire – items wanted, where to drop off, date and place if we have that information by then, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Jerry: Could you research an invasive plant found in our watershed and write an article on how to identify the plant and how to control/ eradicate it? I think that

would add to the educational value of our newsletter, since you probably don't have much to report on the Invasives Committee at this time of year.

I plan to write an article on spring lawn maintenance stressing no phosphate in fertilizer, sweeping up after spreading, no need for 4 step fertilizations, etc.

Martha if you get back in time, a short article on membership.

Did anyone go to the meeting on the proposed dumping of the Plymouth Harbor dredgings in Cedarville or know more about it to write an article?

Ramona: Do you want to put in an article about the herring count in April - purpose, what it entails, need for volunteers, contact info, etc?

Paula: do you want to put anything in about water safety?

Any other additions or suggestions?

Jerry Levine

Inbox - Gmail February 17, 2019 at 12:30 PM



Invasive committee Report

[Details](#)

To: Geri Williams, Don Williams, Brian Harrington, Lee Pulis, Martha Sheldon & 7 more

Hi All:

I am working on having a speaker talk about the Asian Longhorn Tick. I think that this will be a timely presentation. I have talked to Sara about Invasive plant sampling in both of our ponds.

I will keep you posted.

I have been in contact with John about doing the 2018 audit of our books.

Regards

Jerry

Jerry Levine