

## Herring Ponds Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting, September 16, 2019, Williams residence

**Attended by:** Don Williams, Phil Angell, John Foye, Christine Yorty, Margaret Burke, Brian Harrington, Jerry Levine, Ramona Krogman, Patrice O'Connor, Lee Pulis, Geri Williams, Martha Sheldon, Beth Sobiloff

**President** **Don Williams**  
Opened meeting 7:05 PM

**Treasurer** **John Foye**  
Reviewed August balance sheet

***Motion made to accept:***  
August Balance Sheet balance of \$24,324.32  
***Seconded and passed***

**Secretary** **Christine Yorty**  
Reviewed and discussed the modified format of the minutes, at length.

***Motion made to accept:***  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, July 29, 2019  
***Seconded and passed with amendments***

### Old Business

**Water Quality Plan (WQP)** **Don Williams**  
What do we need:

- Our pollutants and their relative amounts
- It suggests remediations

Kim Tower, a technician with Division Marine & Environmental Affairs (DMEA) answered an email from Don listing the questions asked at the 8/26 BoD. Her answers:

- Cost will be the same, \$80K
- No RFP needed; SMAST is a government agency, no bids needed
- Very few grants available for planning
- Runoff sampling Oct – Dec is representative

**WQP continued**

Her supervisor, David Gould, assured we would have a say

David Gould also said,

- HPWA is more level-headed than Bartlett Pond group
- He hopes to have more money for water quality plan in the spring
- He will meet with up to four people from HPWA to prepare for spring.  
(We need to work fast)

**Motion made to accept:**

Create a new ad hoc committee – WQP, Water Quality Plan

Members: Don, Brian, Jack, Lee

**Seconded and passed unanimously**

Board suggested the committee:

- Learn what we need to know
- Agree on an approach
- Bring progress back to the Board

**Social Media****Patrice O'Conner**

committee

Patrice was appointed ad hoc committee chair at 8/26 meeting, but the

was not created. Committee members still: Martha, Geri, Ramona, Beth

**Motion made to accept:**

Create a new ad hoc committee – Social Media: Geri, Martha, Ramona, Beth

**Seconded and passed****Safety****Paula Kuketz**

There is a rumor about a tax per boat or license to pay for pond safety improvements. Source of the rumor was not HPWA, but a suggestion by David Gould in a brainstorming session.

Board suggestions for safety improvements

- State/town should hire someone to patrol the ponds in the summer
- Paid for with existing town taxes
- HPWA should meet with new selectman to explain the safety problems
- Present the issue at a town meeting to advocate for improvements
- Buoys were discussed again, suggestions for their use were made:
  - Only installed where needed
  - The town (Harbor Master) decides how many and location
  - Paid for by the town, their ownership printed on the buoys
  - Clearly not owned or regulated by HPWA
- Harbor Master should enforce the rules on the pond, not us.
- They can give warnings, write tickets, and fine offenders.

**Safety continued**

Board suggestions, continued

- CCTV could be installed on tree on pond shore.
- More discussions with David Gould are needed
- David needs help, how can we help
- Otherwise we should stay out of this, this is a town responsibility

Town could pay for a new sign for the boat launch area, containing state marine rules

**Condon Property Fundraising** **Brian Harrington**  
 Our goal is \$40K, \$33K is pledged

## New Business

**General Meetings** **Geri Williams**  
 Possible meeting locations:

- Wildland Trusts
- Cedarville Fire House, \$45/hour
- Little Red School House, Thursdays only
- National Marine Life Center

Possible Topics:

- Cyanobacteria, red tide
- Native Americans – Melissa Ferretti
  - History of the Wampanoag
  - Current status
  - How can we help
- National Fish Migration Day
- Advantage of preserving land

**Fund Raising Ideas** **Patrice O’Connor**  
 Some fundraising ideas

- Treadmill relay
- Bowling
- Movie night
- Live concert
- Garden tour
- Race – bike or running
- Restaurant promotion

**Website Status** **Beth Sobilloff**  
 Website is progressing

Next Board of Directors Meetings: 10/21, 11/18, 12/16

Next General Meeting: 9/26, Little Red School House

***Motion made to adjourn, seconded and passed 9:15 PM***

## **BOD Meeting Agenda 09/16/19**

- 1) BOD Meeting 08/26/19 Minutes approval – Christine
- 2) Treasurer's Report – John
- 3) Committee Reports – Any Questions?

### **4) Old Business**

- a) Water Quality Plan -- Don
- b) Brainstorming BOD Ideas for Safety Improvement – All
- c) Condon Property Fundraising Status -- Brian

### **5) New Business**

- a) General Meetings Discussion – With Wildlands Trust, By Ourselves -- Geri
  - b) Fund Raising Ideas – Patrice
  - c) Status of Website Rollout -- Beth
- 6) Any other business?
  - 7) Next BOD Meetings 10/21, 11/18, 12/16
  - 8) General Meeting 9/26 (Little Red Schoolhouse)
  - 9) Adjournment

# HPWA Membership Committee Report to ExCo

09/16/2019

Martha Sheldon

Committee Members: John Foye, Jerry Levine, Geri Williams, Marilyn Atterbury, Martha Sheldon (chair)

## I. Membership Numbers to date (9/12/2019)

	June	July	Sept
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Active Contacts in CC</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Dues (Approx)</b>		<b>\$4,270</b>	<b>\$4,781</b>

The membership count includes 2 honorable memberships (Donna Mager and the Westons). We have 12 new members this year.

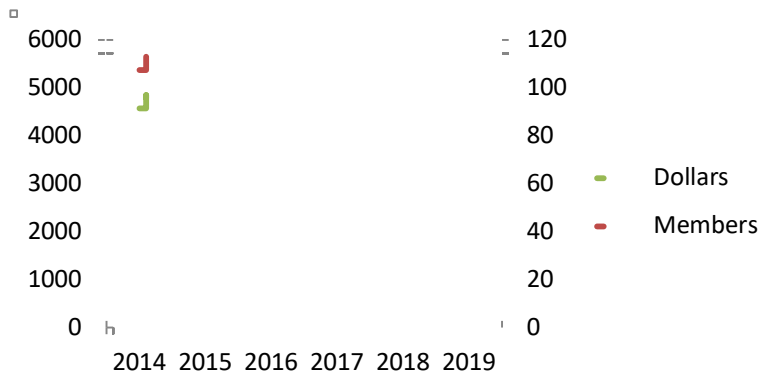


Figure 1. HPWA Dues Income and Number of Members from 2014-2019

## II. Communications Report – August (nothing yet in Sept.)

	Time Sent	Campaign Name	Total Sent	Open Rate	Through Rate	Bounce Rate	Unsubscribe Rate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Aug 2, 2019 2:13 PM	Newsletter Summer 2019	311	52.3% 162	46.3% 75	0.3% 1	0.3% 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Aug 2, 2019 6:01 PM	Picnic Announcement 2019 reminder	326	42.9% 138	2.2% 3	1.2% 4	0% 0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tue, Aug 13, 2019 10:47 AM	Newsletter August 2019	327	54.3% 176	44.9% 79	0.9% 3	0.3% 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sat, Aug 17, 2019 12:05 PM	Meeting Announce August 2019	326	44.6% 144	5.6% 8	0.9% 3	0% 0

### III. Condon Campaign

In August members of the Committee helped to get an initial mailing out to about 80 homeowners who live around GHP alerting them to an upcoming pledge drive. They will again be helping later this month to get out the second letter soliciting pledges for the Condon Property Campaign. A pledge form will be enclosed. I assisted Brian with the proofing and printing of the appeal letter and the pledge form. A dozen more names have been added to the mailing to encompass Deer Run and those living in close proximity to the property. We are anticipating at least a few new members from the letters.

### IV. Upcoming Plans

The Membership Committee will be meeting September 24 at my house to start thinking about how we might deploy our valuable new tool, the 3,000 copies of our new brochure. Initial thoughts are targeting non-members (identifying gaps) similar to what Six Ponds did. I met with Eileen Briggs in August to discuss Six Ponds' successful membership drive and will bring that information to the meeting.

Finally, I am very much looking forward to working with Beth on the new web site!

Webmaster Report to Board of Directors for Sept. 16, 2019 Meeting

**Beth Sobiloff**

Inbox - Gmail September 16, 2019 at 4:20 PM



RE: Minutes for Approval Tonight

[Details](#)

To: Don Williams, Brian Harrington, Geri Williams, Lee Pulis & 10 more

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I've been working on the website. Here's a link to the new draft of the main pages. I haven't gotten to the sub pages yet.

<https://birchwoodwebdesign.com/~herringponds/>

Beth



## 2019. 9.15 Program & Newsletter Report – Geri Williams

### Programs:

We have our last general meeting of 2019 scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7pm in the Little Red Schoolhouse Community room. Our speaker will be Gail Conner a bee keeper and pollinator expert who will be presenting on the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and explaining how to raise them in our homes to increase their numbers in the Northeast. (Martha please send out a meeting reminder later this week.)

Don and I are scheduled to meet with Melissa Feretti who is chair of the Herring pond Wampanoag tribal council on Sept. 24 to discuss working closer with them. I plan to ask her to come speak at one of our general meetings next year.

A possible Spring meeting could center around the World Fish Migration Day coming up in 2020. Perhaps Lee could speak and present his plans for the Herring Lifecycle activity, and bring in one of the women who was tagging herring in Town Brook, as well as one of the graduate students who have been doing research on herring larva in GHP. This could also create more interest in counting herring and help us recruit more volunteer counters.

Beth has also indicated that the director of the Ocean Mammal Rehabilitation Center in Buzzards Bay is very willing to do a program for us.

I think that Bill Keohan and possibly Betsy Hall chair of Plymouth's Open Space committee could present an interesting program on the history, importance and future aims of land conservation in Plymouth. It would also be very appropriate next summer if the town is successful in purchasing the Condon Property. Perhaps we could also have Malcolm McGregor talking about current and future trails in South Plymouth.

I would like to discuss these program ideas at tomorrow night's meeting for your feedback so I can start making contacts and setting up speakers. Don has already put a program discussion on the agenda to talk about meeting places, which will also have an impact on speaker arrangements.

### Newsletter:

At this time I have no definite time plans for another newsletter, however if Town Meeting approves the purchase of the Condon property, I think it would be appropriate to do a Fall newsletter. This could also emphasize our mission to protect and preserve the watershed by protecting important parcels of land. Hopefully by then we will be ready to launch our new website and logo and this could be introduced in the Fall newsletter.

Also included could be an article from Ceci and Jerry on the information they garnered on the other 9 ponds in our watershed. I just got an email from Paul Muther suggesting that we could have articles in future newsletters featuring some of the other ponds. Also Ulla Daggert, Paul's wife sent me some great pictures to use as we want in the newsletter or website, including a gorgeous sunrise picture as well as a sunset.

Don Williams, Chair

September 19, 2019

Board of Directors,

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

**Activities:**

- The two samples for Envirotech evaluation at Elbow Pond gave practically identical, low phosphorus and nitrate results. Good news and a good start. Good news also because only one sample will be necessary to take two samples.
- E. coli samples from August showed low readings except for around Jed Smith's house. The reading was repeated on September 4 and was low.
- Filtered and unfiltered samples were taken at the LHP spring for phosphorus to try to understand why the previous month's phosphorus at this location was so high. I found out from Lee that cranberries had been grown uphill from the spring in the distant past. We shall have to assess the effect of this bog on overall phosphorus levels somehow. We are awaiting results.
- I sent a summary of Kim's answers to questions asked at the last BOD meeting.
- A zooplankton sampling was done on GHP with Meghna.
- I met with David Gould and was told that there was a good possibility that Plymouth would have more than \$40,000 to contribute to the Water Quality Plan. We are an organization in high standing with David. He further assured me that the \$80,000 cost for the Plan "is firm." He is willing to meet with us to talk about the Plan.

**Plans:**

- The BOD will continue to discuss the Water Quality Plan issue and gather information in anticipation of trying to finance a WMP this spring.
- Tom Oertel will arrange a meeting with a resident on Island Pond to assess their interest in a closer relationship with HPWA.
- Meghna and I will do another zooplankton sampling in September.

## EduCom Report – for September 16, 2019 BoD Meeting – Lee Pulis

### Educational Fish Ladder Playspace Proposal for World Fish Migration Day, May 16, 2020

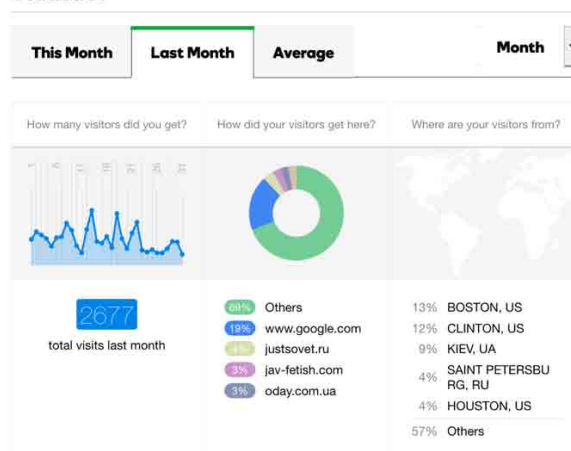
A paper copy of the draft Disney Playground Grant for discussion with Town officials (attached to August BoD Educom report) was conveyed to David Gould. He responded on 8/27: *“The grant application looks great. If you don’t mind I would like to share it with some folks and see what we may be able to do to assist.”* A PDF version was promptly to facilitate sharing. We have not moved further forward, but I plan to nudge for re-engagement next week. [Others interested are welcome to join future discussion.](#) If Plymouth proves uninterested for the park adjacent to the grist mill, other good sites that might be of more direct benefit to HPWA education goals (being in the watershed ACEC) might be the Bourne herring run park, Elmer Raymond Park in Cedarville, or Hedges Pond.

**RE: Safety** – Considering how education plays a major role in human (and pet) safety, the following topics are listed here as relevant beyond the numerous **Water Safety issues** we focus on for boating and jet ski behaviors and rules (which include life jackets, speed, wake, distance, operator age, towing, impairments, overloading, capsizing, wind, lightning, commonsense): **Watershed Safety issues** include ticks, mosquitoes, poison ivy, poke berries, cyanobacteria, E. coli, ice sports, campfires, backyard and forest fire fuel loads and breaks, tree falls, evacuation planning, Biking, hiking, mercury in fish, fish hooks and line, and pet safety with respect to coyotes, fishers, eagles, rodent poisons, and other chemicals. [More brainstorming will likely expand this list.](#)

### GoDaddy website data shows 2677 visitss for last month:



### Statistics



Also looking forward to Beth's new website launch in the near future.

**Facebook social media posts since last report:**

All Facebook posts are public and viewable at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HerringPondWatershedAssociation/>

Sep 5: Ramona's share of Cliff Zenor photography of Monarch with dew drops

Aug 28: Changed cover photo to new fish logo

Aug 28: Photos and link to MMA slides from Aug 19 Manned Models program:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5fvq7z>

**Invasive Species Committee 9/16/2019**  
**Chair Jerry Levine**

Sampling with Sara Grady for invasive aquatic plants in both Herring Ponds. We sampled the first week in Sept.

The following from the water quality committee assisted Sara with the sampling Process:

Great Herring Pond-Don, Jack, Dennis, and Jerry

Little Herring Pond-Jim, and Jerry

Sara did not notice any invasive plants.

Sara will write a report on the sampling results and it will be presented to the BOD and an article will be placed in our next newsletter.

The summer intern working with HPWA is doing data searches of the 11 ponds within our watershed. She and her father Rob went out on Don's boat on Monday 8/26 to observe our sampling technics. Kim Tower was also on board the boat which provide valuable information to Ceci our intern. Ceci actively participated in the sampling procedure. She appeared to find the process interesting and informative.

Ceci's report will be presented and distributed when completed.

Jerry Levine, Chair of the Invasive Species Committee

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