

Oct. 21, 2019

THE HERRING PONDS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 21, 2019

42 Carters Bridge Road, Plymouth, MA 02360

Submitted by Martha Sheldon

Present: Don Williams, John Foye, Brian Harrington *ex officio*, Margaret Burke, Jack Kedian, Jerry Levine, Lee Pulis, Ramona Krogman, Martha Sheldon, Beth Sobiloff, Geri Williams

- 1) President Don Williams brought the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Don announced that Patrice O'Connor had resigned from the Board due to an unexpected increase in family demands.
- 2) Don also announced that newly elected HPWA Secretary Christine Yorty resigned the position, citing personal reasons. The Association has not yet been able to fill the position. Martha volunteered to take the October meeting minutes.
- 3) Future for Secretary's Position It was agreed that the Board would rotate the task of taking minutes until we could find someone to fill the position. Board members will continue to make inquiries about the position.
- 4) Approval of BoD 08/26/19 and 09/16/19 Minutes
The Board voted to accept the 8/26/19 minutes as amended. The 09/16/19 minutes were accepted with no changes.
- 5) Treasurer John Foye presented the Treasurer's 9 Month Summary, and the September 2019 Balance Sheet for approval. He reviewed actual expenses versus budget expenses in the year to date and found that the budgeted projections were very close to actual expenses. The Balance Sheet showed an ending balance for September 29, 2019 of \$23,254.98. John noted that after the Condon pledges the balance in the treasury would be \$13,547.53, an amount that still provided the Association with a comfortable cushion for the budget for next year.
- 6) **A motion to approve the September Balance Sheet 2019 was made and seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve it.**
- 7) Brian and John briefed the Board on the Condon Property Pledge Collection Plan. With the Town's approval of the purchase, Brian said he was preparing letters asking for pledges made. They would be mailed very soon.
Brian and John are working together on budgetary issues that might arise from the pledges.

8) There were no questions or comments on Committee Reports.

9) **Summary of Meetings Attended**

a) Comments on Safety Meeting In Paula's absence, this item was tabled.

b) Comments on Ad Hoc Water Quality Plan Meeting. Don reported on the 09/30 meeting of the new (September 2019) ad hoc WQP committee consisting of Lee Pulis, Jack Kedian, Brian Harrington and himself. The committee is tasked with preparing for meeting(s) with Plymouth DMEA. The meeting was fruitful and developed several **action points**: 1) Regarding funding needs and treasury planning, Don will ask Bill Keohan to elaborate on which properties may be going on the market. 2) Don will ask about the level of HPWA commitment needed to move the Water Quality Plan forward. He will also ask if money can be saved by piggybacking on the Savery Pond septic search and if it would be possible to phase the WQP to ease HPWA's financial burden. 3) Don will ask Ed Eichner the usefulness of the Savery Pond shoreline probes. 4) Don will ask Meghna Marjadi if she has any useful information for HPWA and if she is aware of the work of the others studying GHP and LHP. 5) Don will ask Ed Eichner about the runoff study centered around total phosphorus variability with seasonality, and, in general, about seasonal rainfall variability and how these might affect the variability of the study results. 6) Don will ask Ed Eichner *Are GHP and LHP are still considered impaired?* 7) Don/Lee will ask volunteers to try to document presence of Red-bellied Cooter in our watershed.

10) **Old Business**

a) General Meetings Discussion – with Wildlands, by ourselves? Geri led a discussion of the pros and cons of the venues for our general meetings. Wildlands has an excellent facility and there is some crossover between Wildlands' and the Association's missions, hence audiences, but there is a concern that our "brand" might get blurred. On the plus side, Wildlands Conservation Barn can hold a lot of people, has state-of-the-art projection tools, lots of parking and their staff is easy to work with. Over 100 people came to Ivan Mikolji's presentation. Due to less suitable alternatives closer to home (The Little Red School House is small, the Fire Station is expensive, Center Hill is unexplored) the consensus of the Board was to continue our public meetings with a mix of Wildlands and alternatives closer to home.

b) Fund Raising Ideas In Patrice's absence this item was tabled.

c) Status of Web Site Beth wants to streamline the web site considerably to make it more user-friendly but without losing some of the more technical data. She asked committee heads to please check out the site and give her your suggestions before Thanksgiving.

11) **New Business**

Expansion of HPWA into other 9 Ponds in ACEC—pros and cons. Don led a roundtable discussion to explore this idea. The general consensus of the Board was that despite sounding like a democratic idea, our all-volunteer Board is fully committed—even over committed—to ongoing projects and it would be hard to expand, given the limitations of HPWA’s Board size. The lack of man or woman power to reach out to other ponds seemed like a problem. Some thought that the 2 Herring Ponds themselves could be considered a State treasure having the 4th largest river herring run in the State, and that the Association should keep the focus on protecting that rather than offering an as-yet-unspecified service to the other smaller ponds that we might not be able to deliver on. The Board asked Jerry to get the results of Ceci's (HPWA intern) report on the other ponds before making decisions and Don’s proposal to talk to an Island Pond watershed member.

12) Other Business? It was suggested that a less frequent meeting schedule be considered (such as every 5-6 weeks). Don said that there would be no November or January meeting and that winter vacations will lessen the rate of meetings.

13) Next BoD Meetings The Board agreed to skip November, and to meet on December 9 and February 17, 2020.

14) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.