

Legislative Report- April 22, 2020
R Krogman

Legislative Breakfast:

The Legislative Breakfast was canceled after the State House closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The WAA team worked on a packet of information to be provided to legislators explaining issues of concern and requested actions. Don Williams provided a copy to the HPWA BOD for review.

InstaTrak (MassTrac) follows bills from the State Senate and House of Representatives. Recently their reports consist of COVID-19 related bills and extensions for all other pending business. Any Joint Committees holding public hearings are conducting those hearings via Zoom. The only joint committees I've seen are for Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities or the Judiciary and they have only had COVID-19 bills on the hearing agendas. Ways & Means are working on changes in unemployment benefits.

I attended a 4 hour Zoom hearing on April 13 that covered an additional payment to the most poor citizens of the Commonwealth to help with financial stresses of the pandemic. Listening to the proceedings made it clear that this pandemic is taking up all the time and attention of our elected officials at the state level.

That said, the 2021 budget was proposed in January. Clearly it will be greatly revised. Massachusetts is utilizing its large rainy day account right now. The new budget is likely to be pared down to 'essential' issues and to account for the lack of revenue. Environmental issues will have an uphill battle to be recognized.

With all that said, I will send the materials from WAA. We should consider our own follow-up on these items in early June when we are more likely to be heard.

Plymouth Town Meeting:

Town Meeting has been moved to May 30. The warrant is being reduced to essential articles.

Elections:

Town elections have been postponed from May 16 to June 20. The special election for the Senate seat vacated by Vinny DeMacedo has been moved to May 19. That date may be affected by any extension of the current stay at home order.

Agreement with Plymouth 400:

Most Plymouth 400 events have been postponed.

WFMD Site:

World Fish Migration Day has been moved to October 24, 2020 due to the global pandemic. The World Fish Migration Day Foundation has organized a different activity for the week before May

16th. Starting on May 14th, there will be a 24 hours webinar marathon featuring information about migrations world wide. Sessions will be provided in a variety of languages. Sessions are free and each one can accommodate 500 participants. More information and details on attending are available at:

<https://www.worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/global-swimways-webinar-marathon/>

This may be worth an email blast and FB announcement.

Herring Crawl Suggestion:

We have a batch of print-outs from Plymouth for Herring Crawl. I suggest we get an estimate on a tri fold brochure version of our own, similar to our current promo piece.

Herring Count Notes:

Live counting has been postponed until at least May 4th. Town Brook has also suspended live counts this year.

Future plans-

individual thermometers for counters? (standardizing temps could be an issue)

Camera on the bridge? (expense, security)