

BOD Meeting Agenda Tuesday, 06/21/21

- 1) Open Meeting – Don (1 minute)
- 2) Minutes Volunteer (1 minute)
- 3) Approval of BOD 05/18/21 Minutes – Brian (3 minutes)
- 4) Treasurer Report, Approval of May Balance Sheets Quarterly Budget – John (10 minutes)
- 5) Committee Reports – Any Questions? Major Announcements?

6) Summary of Meetings Attended

7) Old Business

- a) Search for Secretary Progress – Brian (2 minutes)
- b) Nominating Committee Process to Nominate BOD – Geri, Brian (5 minutes)
- c) Status of GHP Patrols by Plymouth – Tom (3 minutes)
- d) Clear-cutting Meeting with David Gould – Report sent to BOD (5 minutes)
- e) Picnic Venue Discussion – All (10 minutes)

8) New Business

- a) Reimburse Patrice O'Connor \$75 for Rain Garden Sign – Don (3 minutes)
 - b) Brainstorming Ideas for New HPWA Initiatives - (10 minutes)
 - c) Meeting in Person (5 minutes)
 - D) Cyanobacteria (Jerry – 5 minutes)
- 9) Any other business?
- 10) Next BOD Meetings – August, September dates (2 minutes)
- 11) Adjournment

BOD Meeting Tuesday, 6/21/21 Minutes

Attending in person: Don Williams, Phil Angell, Jerry Levine, Jack Kedian, Beth Sobiloff, Tom O'Brien, and Geri Williams

Attending virtually: Martha Sheldon, Brian Harrington, John Foye, Jen Yaeger and Melissa Ferretti

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Don Williams who asked for a volunteer to take the minutes of the meeting. Geri volunteered.

The BOD 5/18/21 meeting minutes recorded by Brian Harrington were approved unanimously as amended.

John Foye briefly went over the June balance sheet and answered a question about the scholarships, stating a \$1500 check had been sent to the YMCA Camp Clark and one for \$500 to the Plymouth Town Recreation Camp at Hedges Pond to provide scholarships. The treasurer's report was accepted and approved unanimously.

Committee reports:

Geri discussed proposals for upcoming meetings and the following were agreed to:

July 15th, 7pm at the Little Red School House – Melissa Ferretti will present a program on the History of the Herring Pond Wampanoag in our area and the relationship to the land,

August 16, 7pm at the Wampanoag Meeting House on Herring Pond Rd. – the HPWA Annual Meeting with elections, committee updates and a 30 minute program by Geri Williams on gardening around the pond with photos of her gardens, followed by refreshments and socializing.

September 23rd, 7pm at the Little Red School House – Eric Cody, chair of the Plymouth Water Conservation Committee, will talk about the water conservation measures they will be urging the Town to adopt and ways we can all conserve water.

Martha and Beth urged Board members to learn to use Facebook , to 'like' and share to our personal pages. They offered to do a short tutorial. Jen suggested

joining the 'All things Plymouth' page and Beth said she would work to hook up with other pages including the Wampanoag Tribal pages.

Melissa urged us to support the adoption of the Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration as the HPWA.

Old Business:

Brian reported that he had not had any success so far in recruiting a secretary. He suggested we get new people on the Board to learn what we do and how we operate and then they might be more willing to accept the secretary position. There was a lively discussion of suggestions for getting a secretary including the possibility of a student 'internship' for a high school student who might be interested in environmental science.

Beth suggested that a student on our board could bring a younger viewpoint to our discussions.

Brian reported for the Nominating Committee that per our new bylaws voted in last August, that the Board of Directors would be divided into two classes with Class 1 consisting of half the members being elected this August and the remaining half comprising Class 2 continuing on for another year and stand for election in 2022. He proposed a slate for this August of Melissa Ferretti, Tom O'Brien, Beth Sobilloff, Jack Kedian, Jerry Levine, and Jen Yaeger. He also proposed that we should nominate Paul Denoncourt as a new member at large. Paul is relatively new to the area, but helped Jim Smith with the trash pick up on Little Herring Pond Rd and along the Carter's River. Since most board members do not know and have not met Paul, it was decided that we would set up a zoom meeting with him on Monday, July 28 at 7pm.

Tom reported on the status of patrols on GHP by the Harbormaster's office. Since Chad spoke to our group in June, Tom has seen the harbor wardens patrol boats on GHP 3 more time, for a total of 4 times so far this summer all paid for by the Town. He also spoke with the parents of the young man who drowned in GHP a year ago about putting up a sign at the boat ramp. There was a brief discussion about possibly getting the HS workshop to created it and what it might say. Tom will continue investigating.

Don reiterated the clear cutting problem and his meeting with David Gould about the problem. David said that to penalize anyone cutting on Town property they must be caught in the act. He volunteered that his department has motion activated cameras that we could borrow and position around LHP to hopefully capture photos for evidence if the tree cutting continues. Don suggested perhaps

HPWA could also buy additional camera. Don also said he would speak with Lee Pulis and Jim Smith about possible locations for the camera(s). Phil said they probably be stolen or damaged.

A discussion of the HPWA Picnic followed. Brenda Weston has given us permission to use their lot at 173 Herring Pond Rd on GHP on Sat. Aug. 7 with a rain date of Aug 8. Jerry Levine who is a member of the Plymouth Board of Health said that he did not see a problem with having food at the picnic if properly cooked. Beth volunteered her husband to grill hot dogs and hamburgers again this year. It was decided that HPWA would purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, bottled water and non alcoholic drinks, plates, cups and napkins and charcoal. Attendees would be encouraged to bring a appetizer, dessert or side to share as in past years. But we would also state in announcement that anyone not comfortable with sharing could bring their own food for their own family.

Jen Yaeger spoke to the group about how she doesn't feel like she is contributing enough as chair of the Education Committee. Jen explained that her work and family commitments were too great to allow her to perform her committee duties in a way that was satisfactory to her. She therefore has decided to resign as chair of the Education Committee. She stated she would be willing to remain on the committee as a liaison to the Plymouth schools. Jen made a good point - that it would be good to be on the board as a member to understand its work before being asked to be an officer or committee chair. Jen stated that she would be willing to remain on the board as a member at large if the rest of the board agreed.

Don lead a brainstorming session since we are a bigger and growing organization that means more work. He doesn't want any BOD member to feel overworked and 'burnout'. We need to develop a second tier of working members who might be willing to help with specific projects, this becoming more involved and potential board members. Members present took turns suggesting ideas and projects.

Don: guided tours of the watershed; Ambassadors or welcoming committee

Geri: stencil storm drains with warning

Phil: Safety Buoys

Beth: helping with FaceBook posts and social media

Jack: breakdown into segments neighborhoods around the Watershed for Ambassador program

John: another people project like building birdhouses

Jerry: would like to look into Global Warming and effects on our ponds

Don: photo contest

Phil: build bird houses again or bat houses

Brian: promote family walk about

Jack: best way to reach families is through kids

Melissa: we need to be patient as people get over Covid fears

John: more trails, use conservation lands

Tom: a Kayak or canoe event

All agreed they like the hybrid meeting with those who can attend in person and offering the option for those who find it easier to attend virtually. Phil offered to bring a Bluetooth speaker to future meetings to make it easier for the virtual people to be heard.

Jerry urged HPWA and by default the BOD to be proactive about Cyanobacteria rather than reactive.

Submitted by Geri Williams

Water Quality Committee Meeting Minutes 06/14/2021

In Attendance: Jack Kedian, John Foye, Geri Williams, Carol Morley, Joe Solimini, Bob McDonald, Don Williams

Guests: Peter Schwartzman, Rose Cain (Savery Pond Watershed Association)

Savery Pond Watershed Association Water Quality Plan

Savery Pond Watershed Association has just received an 80-page draft copy of their Water Quality Plan. Peter and Rose were invited to attend our meeting to share information about the study and to strengthen the relationship of the two Associations. Both were accomplished.

WQC members asked questions of and shared information with Peter and Rose. Since the Savery Pond WQP was still in the review process, Rose and Peter were reluctant to share specifics with us. They were, however, forthcoming with their praise of the extensiveness of the study. The sections of the report were: *Existing Data, Water Budget, Nutrient Budget, and Management Actions*. There was an *Executive Summary* at the end.

The *Nutrient Budget* section included the information about how much pollutant resulted from Septic, Sediment and Runoff. Peter noted that an alum treatment (to stabilize sediment phosphorus) must be done every year to be effective and cost \$15,000 - \$30,000 per year for the 30-acre Savery Pond. It also can have adverse effects on pond flora and fauna if not carefully executed. Aeration is another treatment.

Jack mentioned that Florida is having severe problems with cyanobacteria blooms, and he had heard that an Israeli firm was using hydrogen peroxide to treat cyanobacteria blooms. "Oxy=Aid" was also mentioned as a treatment product. No costs were given. More research will need to be done on these two methods. Don mentioned that the decomposition product of hydrogen peroxide is harmless water. Peter also mentioned that it was helpful that Savery Pond had been added to a "303D List" as the result of an SMAST PPALS (Plymouth Ponds and Lakes Study) impaired list several years back. Don thought that both LHP and GHP were on that list. Peter strongly suggested that we make sure because being on that list obligated Plymouth to take care of the impaired status.

Peter asked if we were having a "First Blush" study done. This kind of study considered the effect of a prolonged dry period before a runoff event often led to exaggerated runoff results. We told him that the runoff part of our study would be based on a previous study of 7 runoff sites and 3 storms that was done for our watershed several years ago.

Peter also recommended that if we were going to use E. coli to detect faulty septic/cesspool systems, we should also consider using nitrate also. Nitrate is a known indicator of human impact.

Peter asked if we knew anything about groundwater directional flow. We all agreed that our flow was from the northwest to the southeast. Peter said that the groundwater flow was 1 foot per day.

We agreed that the interaction had been very useful and that we would get a copy of the report when it was finalized. At this point, our guests departed.

New Information

Don reported that he had learned two new important things: 1) a DEP online seminar he attended said that trees are the most important controllers of erosion because their leaves reduce the impact of the rain on the ground and thus limit erosion and 2) sediment phosphorus comes only from the very top surface layer of the sediment and does not run continuously into deeper sediment. This means that we are replacing phosphorus in the sediment continuously and may have some control over our fate if we can manage phosphorus well each year.

Don also presented the following Table of data that shows Total Phosphorus numbers for 2019 through early 2021. Although a case may be made that all the data is statistically identical, the trend is important for suggesting that a cyanobacteria is less likely to occur this summer than last. First, we have less TP heading into 2021 than heading into the 2020 cyanobacteria bloom year. Second, the TP in the beginning of 2021 is lower than heading into 2020 and, combined with a small spring algae bloom, there may not be enough summer TP to start a cyanobacteria bloom. **TP 2019, 2020, 2021**

Month	2019	2020	2021
April	0.016		0.006
May		0.000	
June			
July		0.023	
August	0.021		0.030
September			
October	0.022		0.020
Cyano		?	
SMAST	SMAST		Envirotech

Programs and Newsletter 6.19.21

Newsletter: Geri is gathering and writing the remaining material for the newsletter and plans to get all information to Chris Lewis by 6/22 or 23rd. Hopefully Chris will be able to style and produce the newsletter by the end of the month. Martha has been in touch with Constant Contact our email vehicle about an issue with gmail account recipients. Apparently gmail uses an algorithm that saw our last issue as advertising and did not put it in gmail account holders inbox, but sent it to advertising and most people did not see or open the newsletter email. Martha has learned ways to make some changes to our cover email with the newsletter so it will

go to gmail inboxes. She will also send a separate email this time to those members

alerting them to the look for the newsletter. Thank you to Martha for catching this issue and working out a way to fix the problem.

Programs: I only learned this week that Wildlands Trust doesn't have the staff to do programs and their Board of Directors has decided not to open the Barn. So I was

able to get in touch with Jodie Burkett to see if we might be able to use the Little Red

School House for our summer meetings. She was interested in welcoming us back as

a community organization to use the building. Unfortunately only the 3rd and 4th Thursdays evenings are available (and the 5th Thursday if there is one). Don and I will be away the last 2 weeks in July, so the only available date in July is Thurs. July 15th. I called Eric Cody to see if he could speak to us about the work of the Plymouth

Water Conservation Committee on that date. Unfortunately he is not available that week. However he is very interested in speaking to our group in August or September.

I contacted Melissa Ferretti to see if she could put together a program for July 15th on the historic lands of the Herring Pond Wampanoag, and how they lost their lands and homes. She graciously agreed to put together a power point presentation on their lands and more recent tribal history along with their land stewardship philosophy.

For our Annual Meeting that we would like to hold on Mon. August 16th, Melissa also

offered the use of their Pondville Meeting House on Herring Pond Rd. It can accommodate more people than the Little Red School House and has a kitchen with a refrigerator to make it easier to have snacks and drinks during the social time. I propose that we accept her offer to use the Tribal Meeting House. We usually have a

shorter presentation or program at the Annual Meeting to allow for social time. I am willing to do a 20 minute or so presentation with pictures of my gardens through the year and some gardening tips, if you think this is appropriate.

I would like to schedule a meeting with Eric Cody talking about water conservation in the Little Red School House on Thurs. Sept. 16 or 23. We can discuss at our Board

meeting these dates.
Submitted by Geri Williams

HPWA Membership Committee Report to ExCom

June 21, 2021

Martha Sheldon, chair, reporting

Paid Dues as of June 19, 2021

To date HPWA paid dues **total \$4,445**. By comparison, the 2020 June return was \$2,465; the 2019 June return was \$3,050; and the 2018 June return was \$4,340. We are receiving most returns through the mail, but others are coming in through online payment of dues.

End of Year Paid Dues (May Column)

Beginn	May	June	July	August
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Year
Paid
Dues
(June
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**Memb
ership
Levels**

\$20 Individual	22		5	
\$30 Family	75		26	
\$60 Contributing	20		10	
\$125 Sustaining	29		13	
\$250 Navigator	7		4	
Complimenta ry	27		-	
180		58		

**Communications Committee Report
June 2021**

Committee members:

Beth Sobiloff
Martha Sheldon
Geri Williams

Our second magazine-style newsletter will be out probably in the first week in July.

We are staying active on Facebook, posting at least twice a week. We are up to 732 followers.

Martha had discovered that gmail sees our newsletter as a "promotion", and so many people with gmail addresses have not opened the newsletter. She spoke with Constant Contact about ways to remedy this going forward.

The committee is interested in helping other Board members utilize Facebook to its fullest so that they can share our posts on their own profiles and therefore help spread the word. This can be very effective. Since we have been sharing posts with other Facebook groups, our readership has grown.

We used email and Facebook to promote the in-person talk with the harbor master, which was very well attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Sobiloff