

BOD Meeting Agenda Tuesday, 07/27/21

- 1) Open Meeting – Don (1 minute)
- 2) Minutes Volunteer (1 minute)
- 3) Approval of BOD 06/21/21 Minutes – Geri (3 minutes)
- 4) Treasurer Report, Approval of June Balance Sheet
- 5) Committee Reports – Any Questions? Major Announcements?
 - a) Cyano update -- Don, Jack (3 minutes)

6) Summary of Meetings Attended

7) Old Business

- a) Approval of Patricia O'Brien as Member-at-Large (Secretary-to-be), Patricia present -- Don (10 minutes)
- b) Ratification of JOIN button on Facebook Cyano Announcements -- Don (2 minutes)
- c) Ratification of Chris Lewis Poster Proposal -- Don (2 minutes)
- d) Picnic Venue Discussion – All (10 minutes)

8) New Business

- a) Prioritize New HPWA Initiatives (15 minutes)
- b) Meeting Flexibility -- Remote or live or hybrid (10 minutes)
- c) Program Flexibility -- Remote or live or hybrid (10 minutes)

- 9) Any other business?
- 10) Next BOD Meetings – October, November dates (2 minutes)
- 11) Adjournment

BOD meeting Tuesday 7/27/2021

Minutes

Zoom meeting attended by Don Williams, Geri Williams, Ramona Krogman, Martha Sheldon, Brian Harrington, Jack Kedian, Beth Sobiloff, and Phil Angell

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Don who asked for a volunteer for minutes and Phil agreed.

The BOD 6/21/21 minutes which were recorded by Geri Williams were approved unanimously as written.

The June balance sheet was approved unanimously without discussion.

Committee Reports: Jack related that he had taken Kim out to inspect the Cyanobacteria conditions. The most serious outbreak was in the cove north of Eagle Hill where white and yellow colonies were widespread. Lesser amounts were seen near Camp Bournedale. Kim agreed to return Thursday or Friday in hopes that there would be no visible colonies and the 2 week countdown to pond opening would begin. Based on the amount of bloom in the water that Jack saw he was not hopeful. In other water quality news 19 sites were visited for nitrate and e-coli sampling. Results are not available yet. Jack will write a progress report and Martha will post it.

Martha described early success with the Chris Lewis posters that are being sold with revenue benefiting HPWA. So far 8 sales and \$540 brought in. This may be yet another way to recruit new members by providing a 1 year free membership with each purchase.

Geri discussed the programs that will be coming up and Phil reminded everyone that we have a cyanobacteria expert from WHOI, Don Anderson, who has agreed to make a presentation for us. After discussion it was agreed that the spring may be the most optimal time to try and schedule him.

Melissa's program was very well received.

Paul Denoncourt joined the meeting at 7:15 and was greeted by those who hadn't yet met him.

Old Business: Patricia O'Brien has offered to join the Board as secretary. After much discussion it was agreed that it was in everyone's best interest to not rush her into too much responsibility. She will join as member-at-large with the expectation that she will soon be taking minutes. The archiving responsibilities will stay with the office of the VP and hopefully she will be taking minutes within a few meetings. A motion was passed unanimously to this effect.

Several email actions needed to be ratified:

We will be placing a 'Join' link on the Cyano bacteria announcements as they appear on our Facebook page. This motion was unanimously agreed to. The other ratification was that we would sell posters that were designed by Chris Lewis with financial benefits going to HPWA and this, too, passed unanimously.

Martha mentioned that Chris has other ideas that include greeting cards that may be employed during strategic times like Christmas season and membership drives. Chris suggested that we could all discuss this further to create a long-term plan and it was agreed that this would be a good item for the communications committee.

Picnic: The date for the picnic this year is 8/7 and the week before we will send out a reminder. Martha and Brian agreed to create a list of government invitees, such as the Selectmen and Susan Moran who are not already on a list and to extend the invitation to them as well.

Don reminded everyone that there will be a gathering for large (\$100+) donator on August 27th, 6 pm – 8 pm at their home. The hoped many BoD members would attend.

New Business:

The Future Needs brainstorming list was read aloud and reviewed. Brian suggested that we pick only 1 or 2 items to concentrate on and there was general consensus about that. The leading activity was the Ambassador Outreach program. Jack related about how this approach had been so successful in his Florida neighborhood. Recognizing that there are on the order of 2,000 homes in our ACEC, we agreed that this was going to be a lengthy process. Our first order of business would be to carve up 'precincts' that individuals would be in charge of, hopefully with the benefit of additional help that we would recruit from our membership. For the time being it was thought that this new approach would be best suited to folks just moving into our area. They can be more easily tracked and the numbers are manageable. Ramona offered to create a spreadsheet out of the pdf list we have of addresses in our ACEC. Paul pointed out that this would not be the time to go door to door due to Covid and we readily agreed that mail would be a more appropriate way to make contact for now. The second idea which did not get discussed in detail was to recreate our successful bird box workshop.

A discussion about the future formats of our BoD meeting and programs ensued. It was agreed that BoD meetings should continue to be hybrid events. Our equipment does not allow for successful zoom events at the program level so that will remain in person only. Once Wildlands reopens (October?) we will again have access to an ideal meeting place and recording equipment.

Ramona related the sad news that there had been a drowning of a child at Camp Clark and wondered if it would be appropriate and helpful to send a note of encouragement to the staff there. She will gather the details and Don will write the note and send it.

Geri suggested that we switch our public meeting place from the Little Red Schoolhouse to the Center Hill Preserve and Brian agreed that sounded good and that we should offer to pay for the use of the building.

Next dates for BoD meetings: Monday September 20, 7 pm
Monday October 18th at 7 pm
Monday November 15th at 7 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Water Quality Committee BOD Report 07/27/2021

NEW INFORMATION

Water Quality Plan Study Sampling

The intrepid crew of Geri, Joe Solimini, Bob McDonald, Jerry Levine, Jen Benson, Kim Tower, Don and our granddaughter Zoe, took the samples for the Water Quality Plan study on July 14. Thanks to Joe for the use of his boat and to Geri, Kim Jerry and Zoe for helping Jen with the sampling.

Cyanobacteria

Although the cyanobacteria bloom doesn't look as serious as last year, we were shut down by the town of Plymouth on July 11 following reports (confirmed by Geri and me) of cyanobacteria sightings at the northeast Eagle Hill and southwest coves. We then saw cyanobacteria in the water column in various locations that soon spread to the entire pond. Jerry Levine and I posted warning signs at our beaches; Plymouth posted signs at the boat ramp, Pond Road Beach and the Carters Bridge Road beach. Geri sent pictures of the cyanobacteria to Hilary Snook (Regional EPA cyanobacteria expert) and he confirmed that the bloom was microcystis cyanobacteria, a toxic variety. Geri and I went out several times on our boat to warn residents and we noted that the bloom, while present throughout the pond, was not as severe as last year's bloom, consistent with the phosphorus data from both years. Jack will take Kim out on 7/26 to inspect the pond. A network of pond residents has been reporting results at their locations daily and have confirmed that the severity is not as great. Kim will evaluate if and when we will be able to reopen GHP.

Kim also committed to buying HPWA a microscope and fluorometer so that Plymouth could have two sets in order to deal with future blooms. Geri has been very helpful with her microscopy and fluorometer work and that contribution has been recognized.

E. coli and Nitrate

Jack, Denise, Geri and I rode around the pond and identified which sites should be sampled based on usage and the need to have a thorough check on these two indicators of human impact. Jack and Jerry then took samples on 7/16. I am happy to report that all samplings were well below the recommended limits.

Watershed Nitrate, Total Phosphorus

Jim Smith and I took samples for Nitrate and Total Phosphorus at the LHP Bog, LHP spring, LHP North, LHP Central, LHP Sluiceway, Carters River and GHP. As always, the Bog Total Phosphorus was very high. Nitrate was higher in LHP North and LHP Central sites than most. LHP Total Phosphorus was higher than the GHP Total Phosphorus by quite a bit. I am hopeful that the Water Quality Plan Study will

reveal that LHP is a major source of the watershed's phosphorus. That will make our cleanup job a lot easier!

FUTURE PLANS

We will take more Water Quality Plan study samples in August, September and October. We will continue monthly monitoring the watershed nitrate and total phosphorus. E. coli and nitrate samples will be taken in August. We will be vigilant with the cyanobacteria bloom and hopefully, we will be able to reopen the pond at a much earlier date than last year.

Newsletter and Programs Report for 7/23/21

Newsletter: A very informative and well received Summer Newsletter was sent out on July 15th. It was a little later than we had intended, but Chris was very busy with his work at the beginning of July and then the Cyano bloom happened and I felt Don needed to rewrite his President's letter to address the new GHP situation. All in all I think the newsletter contained a lot of excellent information and Chris did another excellent job designing it and laying it out. Thanks to Martha and Beth for their help as well.

We will aim for another newsletter in mid September.

Programs: We had about 30 people at the Little Red School House for Melissa Ferretti's excellent program on Wampanoag lands.

Future programs are:

August 16, 7pm at the Wampanoag Meeting House on Herring Pond Rd. – the HPWA Annual Meeting with elections, committee updates and a 20-30 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.

Please send Geri any suggestions for future programs.

Two other upcoming events to keep in mind:

The Annual HPWA Picnic on Sat. Aug 7 from 3-6pm at the Weston's property, 173 Herring Pond Rd.

And a Major Donor Appreciation Event under the auspices of the Membership Committee on Fri. Aug. 27 from 6 -8 pm at Don and Geri's home, 42 Carters Bridge Rd.