

Herring Ponds Watershed Association
January 24,2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Phil Angell, Paul Denoncourt, John Foye, Brian Harrington, Jack Kedian, Ramona Krogman, Tom O'Brien, Trish O'Brien, Martha Sheldon, Beth Sobiloff, Don Williams and Geri Williams
Absent: Melissa Ferretti and Jerry Levine

President Williams opened Monday, January 24, 2022, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Approval of October 2021 Meeting Minutes and October, November, December 2021 Treasurer's Report and End of Year Budget:

President Williams requested motion to approve **October 2021** HPWA meeting **minutes**. Motion by Geri Williams.
Second by Jack Kedian. Unanimously approved.

President Williams requested motion to approve **October 2021 Treasurer's Report**. Motion by Geri Williams.
Second by Ramona Krogman. Unanimously approved.

President Williams requested motion to approve **November 2021 Treasurer's Report**. Motion by Geri Williams.
Second by Paul Denoncourt. Unanimously approved.

President Williams requested motion to approve **December 2021 Treasurer's Report**. Motion by Brian Harrington.
Second by Geri Williams. Unanimously approved.

President William requested motion to approve **2021 End of Year Budget**. Motion by Ramona Krogman. Second by Geri Williams. Unanimously approved.

*Note – 2021 Donations surpasses last year. Some generous donation came in at the last quarter of the year. The beginning, a \$2000.00 Williams fund donation, for Land Acquisition Fund took some work but may increase donations for next year as the fund offers another way to donate with tax incentives.

Budget 2022 Discussion

Treasurer John Foye to begin to contact each committee's chair for their 2022 financial needs and request fundraising ideas. A good example of fundraising is Phil's Birdhouse program that not only raised money but got people involved.

President Williams requests authorization for a \$300 dollar donation to the North and South Watershed Action Alliance toward their virtual legislative breakfast, during which they will present legislation with information on Cyanobacteria and actions that can be taken against it. Motion to approve by Geri Williams. Second by Martha Sheldon. Unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality Committee - President Williams has ongoing dialog with Ed Eichner. We should receive the Results of the study in early April. Don also wants to know who, in addition to the Water Quality Plan members, is interested in a Water Quality Plan sub- committee to review the plan once it is received. The sub-committee will meet once a week once we have received the plan. Don, with the help of Beth Sobiloff, will set up his own Zoom account for these meetings, giving Beth's necessary tech skills a rest by not requiring her to attend every meeting. The new Zoom account will cost the Association \$16.00 month. It is decided this fee will debit from the Communications budget.

Outreach Committee – Chair Geri Williams reports on upcoming virtual programs: On Feb 17th an educational

virtual program from Whale and Dolphin Organization. In March a virtual education program presented by Abigail Archer on herring. Her vast knowledge of herring is informative plus helps stimulate interest on herring count. In April a virtual presentation from Blake Dinius, Plymouth County Entomologist on the decline of our insect population and the effects the decline can have on our eco system. In one of the summer months a virtual presentation on the Water Quality Plan. Geri also asks for any suggestions on other programs that may interest our members.

Herring Count Committee – Chair Ramona Krogman reports she want to coordinate with Beth Sobilloff and Geri Williams on emails to potential herring count volunteers and a schedule. If no one is apposed, Ramona would like to go back to the old thermometer and bucket system for the herring count. She thinks with covid omicron strain on the decline, it should be safe if we place hand sanitizers near the bucket. (Everyone agreed this is a good idea). Geri added that she will mention Ramon’s recruitment of volunteers in the February program announcement. Tom O’Brien is concerned about blockage on our pond’s herring run. Brian Harrington informed us that the town used to send in a group from AmeriCorps to clear out the large limbs and trees from the passage. However, it is of some controversy in the scientific community whether or not the limbs are necessary for herring to hide behind during their journey. Tom said he’d be willing to walk the path to observe where water may not flow. Brian will check with the Bourne and Plymouth herring wardens about the issue.

Old Business

WAA Meeting – President Williams attended the WAA meeting and submitted a summary including the positive information that WAA is submitting information to the Legislation about cyanobacteria.

Election of Board Officers – Brian informs us that in January of every year the members nominate and vote on the directors of the Board and the directors of the Board nominate and vote on the officers, according to the by-laws. Brian Harrington motions to nominates current state of officers for renewal. Ramona Krogman seconds. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Second Tier Volunteers –

Membership Boat Rides - President presents idea of offering boat rides to members who may not have access to a boat or members who may just want to socialize together on a boat ride. These rides would be a way for members to enjoy the pond and serve as a way to gain their interest in the Association, possibly leading to second tier volunteers. Discussion includes: First ride should be with all of the Board. A social hour for us all. Further scheduling of rides can be both pleasure and educational - Inform passengers what the board does and how they, the members can get involved. Also, could share a known history of certain areas of pond. Kayak tours are brought up but power boats agreed as a better option for covering entire pond. Don, Jack and Tom volunteer their boats for these rides. Brian suggests we consult with an attorney on liability issues especially if providing alcohol. It is suggested that wine could be served on shore at the end of the boat ride. A sub-committee formed including Beth, Don, Jack, and Tom to meet on Zoom, before next board meeting, to discuss liability, scheduling, script, etc.

Committee Involvement - Another suggestion for second tier volunteers is for committee Chairs to work on getting people involved in their individual committees. Get people involved to volunteer at something they’d like to do.

New Residents – It is suggested with the real estate boom going on, most houses selling before or at open house over asking price, that we approach these new residents with information on the Association.

Education Chair – The Board is in need of a new Education Chair to educate the public on HPWA. Past initiative

included: obstacle course, comic books, classroom presentations, You-Tube videos, fish drawing contest. This education would not be limited to old ideas but be the leader of ways to help people understand sustainable living on the watershed. Could use old ideas or bring new ones. There is no right or wrong way to do this job, a flexible position. We are now using Facebook and the HPWA Newsletter to educate but an Education Chair would fill a necessary void. It is possibly the most important position on the board. Board members should think on possible candidates.

2022 Calendar – Communications Committee members, Martha, Beth, and Geri met on Zoom to discuss the Association's 2022 Calendar. Dates to be recorded on calendar include, the Newsletter edition dates, Zoom Education programs (March 15th and April 12th), Plymouth Herring Festival (April 23rd), Town Clean-Up Day (May 7th) annual meeting (August 8th), annual picnic, (August 13th). Dates to be determined and submitted to Communications Committee by committee chairs: Association's audit, Bird walk, Birdhouse, Zoom Education programs (March 15th and April 12th), membership drive, boat rides.

Audit – Needs to be put on calendar. HPWA needs to complete audits for 2019, 2020, and 2021. All Treasury paperwork needs to be gone through. Jerry Levine is the Chair of the Audit Committee. Phil and Geri have volunteered to participate and Ramona volunteered to sit in this year to learn process since rotating the auditing committee is recommended for credibility.

Rising Tides Environmental Interns –The Rising Tides Charter High School is looking for tasks for the school's environmental internships. These students have proved to be motivated and efficient in the past. The board should think on worthy tasks for these students and bring ideas to our next board meeting.

Obstacle Course - Our herring obstacle course needs to be set up and manned at the Plymouth Festival on April 23rd. The usual volunteers that coordinate this effort are not available this year. We need volunteers to oversee set up of the obstacle course, figure out how many assistants needed to run it for the day, and schedule its man power. Someone could ask Mass Maritime Academy about their students helping out to fulfill their community service hours. To be further discussed.

Nominating Committee – The Board needs to appoint a nominating committee of 3-4 people by February to Submit nominations at the Annual meeting. To be further discussed.

Plymouth Climate Action Network Letter of Support – President Williams presents that the Plymouth Climate Action Network, an offspring of Sustainable Plymouth is attempting to form a collaboration of environmental organization in town to come together a unified voice to get selectmen to move forward to get some funds for climate change MVP programs. None of the available funds are coming to Plymouth yet. The town isn't moving quickly enough. Through their efforts the Select Board has already adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration to start the process of becoming eligible for available money and grants, but more needs to be done. The network needs support to move Plymouth along on actual planning vs. mere climate awareness and inaction. The only selectman pushing for planning is Patrick Flaherty. He recently pushed through the forming a Plymouth Climate Commission that isn't staffed yet. The Network wants to ensure the commission is staffed with good people. Don requests Boards permission to write the Network a letter of support from HPWA then submit it to board for approval. Brian and Martha think it sounds a little vague. Don will find out more information to pass on to us at the next Board meeting then re request the board's permission to write the letter of support.

Grant Writer – President Williams presents that Teri Pekol has volunteered to be a grant writer for HPWA. She expressed she of course does not want to be in conflict of Kim's efforts, who currently is a grant writer for Plymouth grants on our behalf. Teri could be in contact with Kim to assure her work doesn't conflict. Don looking for the Board to approve her offer as a 2nd tier volunteer. Brian comments that this is an exciting offer but that nothing should move forward without the Board's approval. Board agrees to welcome Terri Peko.

Town Clean-Up Day – Plymouth’s town clean-up day is scheduled for May 7th. The town wants us to organize efforts in this area. Carter’s Bridge Road is one chosen particular area. Town will provide purple bags and pick up the full ones. Geri to add to calendar and Newsletter to get volunteers.

Environmental Justice – President Williams brings up environmental justice to be discussed at next meeting. Area residents don’t have access to use pond. There is a town owned beach but no parking.

Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings:

February 21st

March 28th

April 18th

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President Don Williams asks for motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by Geri Williams

Second by Jack Kedian

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM