

## President's Report for BOD Meeting 02/21/22

### Meetings Attended

#### a) Watershed Action Alliance

*The WAA is planning a virtual "Legislators Breakfast" for March 23. One of the topics being discussed for presentation to the legislators is a need for more financial support of the battle against cyanobacteria. HPWA will be given an opportunity to give a short presentation on needs specific to our watershed.*

#### b) Water Conservation Committee

*I continue to attend these meetings, chaired by Eric Cody. The committee has just finished an excellent document - Water Conservation Planning Framework – that summarizes their findings over the past year and a half.*

#### c) MVP Salt Water Intrusion

*Geri and I attended an excellent meeting on Salt Water Intrusion hosted by Frank Mand and Sharl Heller's SWI Group on February 12. The speakers were Julia Quimond, Holly Michael and David Boutt. I believe that it was recorded so it should be available on their SWI website.*

#### d) Plymouth Master Plan Committee

*I was appointed to the Plymouth Master Plan Committee. The first meeting was held on Friday, February 11. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 24 at 8:30 AM via zoom. Discussion will center around recommendations from the 2006 Master Plan that were not implemented.*

### Old Business

#### a) More Instruction on Zoom – All (5 minutes)

*Beth is willing to give supplemental instruction on Zoom to anyone who feels they need it. Who would be interested?*

#### b) Thoughts from BOD on Environmental Justice – All (10 minutes)

*This idea is in the formative stages. It is a result of my exposure to Environmental Justice with the WAA Webinars. I believe that Great Herring Pond should have more facilities (specifically a beach) available to the community at large. I propose ("straw man") that a beach with bathrooms and litter containers be placed adjacent to the State Boat Ramp with parking controlling (as it does for the boats) the number of cars allowed in. There is justifiable opposition to opening our pond to non-residents who may not exercise the care for our watershed that we residents practice. However, there are advantages to doing so in applying for grants, providing toilets for those who use the boat ramp and 3 Rocks area, controlling the cleanliness and access of boats to GHP to prevent invasive species and better control over litter in that end of the pond. There are obstacles -- the state, which controls the Boat Ramp, Bourne, owner of the area around the boat ramp where a beach and parking might be sited, laws that require separation of 50 feet between a beach and a Boat Ramp, nearby residents, and Plymouth and Bourne who will have to enforce regulations. Are we interested in doing something to indicate our interest in Environmental Justice?*

#### c) Idea of How to Attract Second Tier Doers – All (10 minutes)

*This is one of the most important issues (if not **the most** important issue facing HPWA, in my opinion. We have many ideas about how to improve HPWA, our watershed, our community, our processes but, frankly, our BOD is working very hard, and I am concerned that any more responsibilities will lead to burnout. We have talked about this issue and have come up with two major ideas: 1) organizing our*

watershed into “precincts” and cultivating “precinct leaders” to communicate, educate and learn about HPWA in order to move into the BOD when needed and 2) conducting boat tours of GHP in order to show our constituents a side of the watershed that they have not necessarily been able to take advantage of. In this meeting, we need to define the next steps for each of these actions, those who will conduct them and an approximate timetable. Come prepared with your thoughts. One thought that has occurred to me is that instead of finding people for certain tasks, we should find the people first (we all kind of know some people who are more than just interested in what we are doing) and ask them what they would like to do for HPWA. Of course, it would be helpful to have a list of tasks in mind ahead of time, but the difference of recruiting people for their interest first and their skills second might be a better approach to easing someone into a tough position (e.g. Education Committee Chair) than trying to hire someone to immediately step into that position.

d) Pond Boating Tours, Outings, New Thoughts, Next Steps – All (10 minutes)  
Jack, Tom, Trish, Geri, Beth, and I met on February 14 to get the ball rolling. The minutes of the meeting are below. At the BOD meeting, we solicit your comments.

## **Minutes of Ad Hoc Boat Ride Committee Meeting – 02/14/2022** **(Zoom)**

**Those Present:** Beth Sobiloff, Geri Williams, Jack Kedian, Trish O’Brien, Tom O’Brien, Don Williams

**Background:** At the behest of the Herring Pond Watershed Association Board of Directors, the above met to discuss how to start offering Boat Tours of Great Herring Pond.

**Boat Tour Purpose:** Don suggested that not many people had had the opportunity to see Great Herring Pond from a boat. Beth, in fact, said that she had not! Jack, Don, Geri, Tom, and Trish agreed that a boat ride was a powerful way to understand the value of GHP and that watershed residents might learn a lot and appreciate the watershed more. Don suggested that both social and educational goals of HPWA could be served by exposing more of our membership to the Pond.

**BOD:** All agreed that the first tour in May or early June should be given to the BOD, both as a social event and as a dry run of the membership tours to come.

**Legal:** Don had contacted Bill Abbott who had advised HPWA on legal matters in the past. Bill said that if HPWA was incorporated (we are), our liability would be significantly reduced. It would also be reduced if we didn’t charge anything for the tour. He thought we should have a standard liability waiver for guests to sign. He suggested that if we wanted to serve food and, especially wine and beer, we could purchase insurance separately. We also needed to know if adults needed to wear life jackets during the tour or if enough could just be “available if needed.” Would liability be reduced if guests brought their own food and drink.

**ACTION POINT:** Tom will contact an insurance agent and find out answers to these questions and costs.

**Boats:** Don, Tom and Jack volunteered boats for the tours. Jack will be back from Florida the middle of May. Don and Tom will have boats in the water in April. We should have enough boat capacity to accommodate the BOD and significant others in May. Tom’s party boat can take 8; Don and Jack’s boats were good for 6.

**ACTION POINT:** Don will ask Joe Solimini if he (and his party boat) would be willing to participate in this initiative. **DONE:** Joe is willing to participate, and his boat will be in during April.

**Snacks, Beverages:** Because of Covid and perhaps because of liability issues, we tentatively decided to have guests bring their own food and drink.

**Scheduling:** If each of us could choose 3 dates our boats are available, that would mean 12 tours. We could have the insurance waiver signed on-line.

**ACTION POINTS:** Beth has graciously offered to handle scheduling and create a signup list for paid members where they could possibly enter preferred dates that they would want to join the boat ride. Don promised to give Beth a ride on GHP as soon as his boat was in the water.

**Tour Considerations:** We felt that we could develop some talking points to give an educational flair to the tour. It would also be nice if a sunset were involved! Geri suggested Dave Clark, having grown up on GHP, would be a good source of stories.

**ACTION POINT:** Each captain will develop a list of talking points and share them around.

Don will bring the issue up for discussion at the next BOD meeting on February 21.

**ACTION POINT:** Don will send an email to Martha (and Beth and Geri) informing them of our progress on this initiative.

e) Herring Festival April Obstacle Course? – Don (5 minutes)

*Melissa Ferretti has agreed to organize the Herring Festival Obstacle Course activity at the Herring Fest on April 23. She will get initial direction from Lee Pulis and Teri Pekol but will need help from us for setup prior to and monitoring (orientation, slide watchers, instructors) during the activity. Thanks so much, Melissa! This was a very successful activity at the last Herring Fest 2 years ago.*

f) Participation in Plymouth Climate Action Network Update – Don (5 minutes)

*At the last BOD meeting, I asked for permission to write a letter of support for the activities of the Plymouth Climate Action Network. The Board had several questions about the group. The letter is not needed.*

g) Yearly Calendar Update – Beth, Geri, Martha (5 minutes)

*At the January BOD meeting, the Board helped Beth, Geri and Martha develop a yearly calendar. Is any further input needed?*

h) Membership Directory Update – Phil (5 minutes)

*Phil has obtained printing costs for the Membership Directory.*

### **New Business**

a) Does Anyone Need Help? – All (10 minutes)

*I would like to know how everyone is doing with their HPWA tasks. If you need help, let me know. I am concerned about our collective workload.*

b) President Zoom Outreach to Constituents – All (10 minutes)

*In January, the BOD agreed to provide me with a Zoom account to facilitate Water Quality Plan meetings without having to involve Beth. It occurred to me that if I made myself available at a regularly scheduled*

*time on Zoom, our watershed residents might feel free to “tune in” and ask questions about any and all issues. This would have both educational and membership benefits. It would also give us a sense of the pulse of our membership. What do you think?*

c) Nominating Committee – **Brian** (10 minutes)

*At the January BOD meeting, the Board agreed to set up the Nominating Committee at the February BOD Meeting.*