

Herring Ponds Watershed Association
February 22, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

President Williams opened Monday, February 22, 2022, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes:

President Williams requests motion to approve **January 2021** HPWA meeting **minutes**. Motion by Brian Harrington to approve meeting minutes as amended. Second by Jack Kedian. Unanimously approved.

- Amendments to meeting minutes: 1) Election Committee – correct process of election process to read as follows: the directors of the Board are nominated and voted on at the Annual Meeting in August. At the January Board meeting these elected directors nominate and vote on the Board officers. 2) names on Auditing Committee corrected to read – Jerry Levine as Chairperson, Phil Angell as volunteer on committee, and Ramona as volunteer to learn auditing process.
- It is discussed that there are only a few months of Secretary minutes on our web site. Beth Sobiloff to update.

Committees:

Herring Count Committee - Chairperson Ramona Krogman reports that the group's volunteers had the first of two presentations. First presentation done by Brad Chase, a biologist with the Division of Marine Fisheries. Martha Sheldon submitted a summary. Worth noting from presentation is Great Herring Pond has the oldest continuous herring count. Numbers have been encouraging but spiked downward last year, from 500,000 fish in 2019 to 93,000 in 2021. And, that they are conducting a new Fish Passage Survey, (last one conducted in 2004) looking for invasive species that have moved in and log falls that may impede herring passage. Will be interesting what the survey shows of path leading to Great Herring Pond and their plan for Monument River.

Martha Sheldon contacted Brad Chase about our last meeting's discussion of possible blockage on the Monument River passage. She has emailed him asking what their plans are for clearing our passage and what the timeline is. Martha will report back to us once she has heard back.

Ramona working on communicating with Beth and Geri about press release, email, and FB announcements for need of herring count volunteers. Ramona to send first email to past year's volunteer counters by the end of this week. She will also announce need for volunteer counters on the World Fish Migration Website. Geri to add needing counters to Abigail Archers program announcement. Jerry Levine volunteers to help train counters.

Audit Committee – Chairperson Jerry Levine reports that Phil, and Ramona have volunteered to be on the committee. Ramona to observe and learn for future years. Auditing should begin in April because there are several years of auditing to accomplish; however, it will begin when John Foye is ready. Jack Kedian also volunteers to be on the committee during the discussion.

Old Business

Zoom Instruction – Beth Sobiloff has volunteered to offer the Board specialized training on Zoom. Don, Jerry, Jack and Trish are interested. Beth may be able to do this remotely. If not, she'll plan an in-person meeting when everyone is available. She'll email all for availability.

Environmental Justice – President Williams revisits idea of how we can offer pond access to disadvantaged people and/or public access to those who live near but not on pond. There is a public beach but no parking. Don's idea is to make the frontage wider near the public ramp where there is parking and provide bathrooms and trash receptacles. It is discussed that there may not be enough room at the ramp for a beach and the idea of finding a location for a public beach with parking may be met with insurmountable obstacles. A vote of Board yielded the majority wanting more information before pursuing the matter.

Ramona suggests the Board contribute to environmental justice by providing tuition to underprivileged children to attend camp Bourndale. Unanimously agreed upon.

Second Tier Donors – Board members should be thinking about how to attract volunteers, getting them interested in tasks they would enjoy doing for the Association. A good example was the Owl Workshop that attracted members and got them involved. Martha is planning on crafting an email to a specific group of people to get them to attend a membership committee meeting then give them a task. Brian suggests that we may be able to interest people in the Association during the Town's trash pick-up effort on May 7th.

Trash Pick-up Day – We need someone to coordinate trash pick-up for our area on May 7th. Martha will contact a few people she thinks may be interested.

Boating Tours – We now have four people volunteering their boats: Don, Tom, Jack and Joe Solomini. Beth is working on scheduling. She has already emailed these four to get their availability. Don contacted Attorney Bill Abbot who advised the Association my need to take out a small insurance policy. Tom O'Brien has contacted two insurance companies and will report back to board types of policies they suggest and their cost. Melissa is willing to write something up about the history of the Wompanoag for us to add to our script for the tours. The first voyage will be for the Board and their significant others. The invite for rides will be limited, at least this summer, to members.

Plymouth Herring Festival – Teri Pekol will provide equipment for the obstacle course. Melissa Ferretti will coordinate this event for us. She is bringing tribe members to man the obstacle course, and share some Wompanoag Herring Day traditions. There will be a table set up with information to learn about Herring, Wompanoag tribe and HPWA. Lee donating carving of birds of prey. Phil will donate two full size herring carvings. Any interested in participating in this event should contact Melissa.

Climate Action Network – As a follow-up to last meeting's discussion, the Climate Action Network is not asking for letters of support so a letter from HPWA is no longer needed.

Yearly Calendar – 2022 Calendar is underway. Brian just submitted two dates for bird walks. Ramona wondering if there is a way to share calendar events, like programs offered. Beth replies that Programs are announced on Facebook and in the newsletter, both with shareable links. Geri says she'll add to invite friends in the announcements.

HPWA Directory – This is a matter that has already been discussed, voted on, and approved. Phil Angell has prepared the information for the Directory and lined up a printer. Cost for 200 prints including mailing to members is \$461.00. Brian Harrington makes a motion for \$461.00 plus a 10% contingency be allocated for the directory. Ramona seconds. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Water Quality Report Sub-Committee – Purpose of the committee is to evaluate the Water Quality Report and report back to the Board. Anyone from Water Quality Committee and the Board are invited to join this sub-committee. Paul Denoncourt, Jack Kedian, Geri Williams, Jerry Levine, and Tom O’Brien volunteer to participate. Trish O’Brien volunteers to listen in to learn and record.

We have two town meetings with the company who did the study included in the cost of the study to address our questions, changes, and concerns. We should receive the study by April. The goal is to get the report out to the public by summer.

Board discusses possibility of bringing in a consultant with particular expertise to help us evaluate the Water Quality Support. The Board to line up some experts and ascertain their fees now to be prepared in case we need help.

Board Members Assistance - President Williams checks again that Board members are not feeling overworked. He assures us that arrangements can be made to help should anyone be in need. No takers at this time.

Nominating Committee – Brian Harrington informs us that we need to prepare membership to vote on directors. He suggests we put the process in motion by March. We need a chairperson of the committee, a couple of directors and 2-3 Association members not on the Board to comprise the Committee. The Committee needs to submit a slate of nominated directors 31 days prior to the Annual Meeting to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Ramona volunteers to participate to learn the process. All Board members suggestions for the committee is of interest.

Member Informational Zoom Sessions – Don Williams suggests that with his new Zoom account, he avail himself a ½ hour a week to the membership via Zoom. He suggests this might be an opportunity to hear in what the membership is interested. The goal is good outreach, sharing knowledge, and getting feedback. It is suggested he have a second Board member as a wingman to help discussion of any brought up discussion. We could send membership a link with date and time of open Zoom meetings. Goal is to begin in May or June.

Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings:

March 28th

April 18th

May 16th

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President Don Williams asks for motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by Geri Williams

Second by Phil Angell

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM