

**Herring Ponds Watershed Association**  
**April 18, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Phil Angell, Paul Denoncourt, Melissa Ferretti, 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

Also present: Linda White, member volunteer, directing Plymouth Trash Pick-up Day

**President Williams opened Monday, April 18, 2022, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM**

**Urgent Business:**

**Plymouth Trash Pick-up Day, May 7, 2022-**

Linda White reports that she'll deliver empty bags to people who are planning on cleaning up on Trash Pick-up Day. Once the bags are full, she'll pick them at volunteers' houses then she'll arrange for the town to pick them up at her house.

Clean Up Volunteers so far: Linda and Dennis White, Mitchell and Flemming Christianson, Geri and Don Williams (Carter's Bridge Road area), Martha and Brian (Herring Pond Road), Beth in the morning hours, and Ramona (160 Valley Road toward Camp Bourndale). Since he's going to be away on May 7<sup>th</sup>, Paul Denoncourt already cleaned Herring Pond Road to Carter's Bridge Road, and returned the bagged remains to town dump. He found a car bench seat in the woods near Alpert Preserve. Linda advises he drag the seat to the road and she'll notify town who will pick it up. Town DOT just cleaned up Herring Pond Road on each side of the Rt 3 underpass.

Linda's email, [horseandboat@aol.com](mailto:horseandboat@aol.com), will be on the Facebook announcement for volunteering for Trash Pick-up Day. On post volunteers will be advised to contact Linda and she'll deliver trash bags to them.

**Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

Don Williams requests motion to approve **March 2022** HPWA meeting **minutes**. Motion by Paul Denoncourt. Second by Jack Kedian. Unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Outreach Committee –**

Chair Geri Williams reports that the quarterly newsletter went out via email. 50% of recipients opened it and 25% of those continued to site to read it!

She also reports that after her herring count slot this week, she went to the canal to see if any herring were there. She ran into a ranger who gave her the name of another ranger, Samantha Grey, who does presentations on herring. Her herring presentation: "explore the fascinating lives of these seasonal visitors, discover why they return each year, the challenges they face, why we should care, and how we can help" will be live at the canal on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM and 2:00 AM. Her presentation will include a guided tour along the canal run. Since Samantha Gray's schedule doesn't permit her doing a Zoom presentation specifically for us, Geri thinks it would be a good idea to email our members about this opportunity on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and announce on our FB page. All were in favor of sharing this with members. It should be included in our Thursday announcement reminder about the Herring Festival via email and FB. Geri also thought Ramona might want to forward this information to the home school groups that contacted her about volunteering for the herring count. Ramona's group is looking for weekday activity the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Geri reports she is also working on getting Morgan Ellis from Audubon Society to do a program for us on how climate change is affecting bird migration. Everyone agreed this would be an interesting Zoom presentation for members.

#### **Herring Committee –**

Chair Ramona Krogman reports that she heard from a few home school groups looking for weekday activities. Her ideas for them, in addition to herring count, are a walk to the ladder and the Wampanoag burial ground; and, giving them the herring cartoons, brochures and stewardship guides as some additional curriculum. Jerry will help with this tour. Ramona and Jerry to firm up a date with the group, sometime during the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>. The group also well received Ramona's suggestion that they may enjoy the Herring Festival. Ramona will inform them of Martha and Brian's bird walks as an additional educational activity.

As another suggestion, Ramona thought we could lead the home schoolers to our internet site somehow because it, in and of itself, is educational. Beth says she could make a flyer with a QR to our site. It is noted that this would be helpful for the Herring festival this Saturday. Beth says we'd just need a poster on the table at the festival with a QR to scan then link to the watershed's site.

Count update: Ramona still has counters coming in. 56 counts on the books. Water temperature is rising, 54 to 55 degrees. Nothing seen at canal ladder but seals have been sited making herring entry hopeful. The ladders were recently cleared of branches to help the process. And, more volunteer counters are expected in May as seasonal residents return. All is looking optimistic.

#### **Water Quality Committee –**

Chair Don Williams reports that the town of Plymouth is going to pay for our water quality testing from April to October. Also, that Jack Kedian has volunteered to be his wingman for the weekly zoom sessions we will offer to members after the WQS returns.

Don also reports that David Gould was thrilled with our letter of support. Arrangements have been made for the letter to be passed onto the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager.

The board's idea about a token of appreciation for Kim and David is revisited. Maybe a wood carving from Lee would be appropriate. Perhaps a herring or a bird. Don to contact Lee about a cost he'd charge us for a carving. Maybe we could present them at an in-person meeting we have. Take some photos for newsletter and FB. No timetable on this matter so we'll revisit once Don has talked with Lee about carvings ad cost.

#### **Nominating Committee –**

Chair Brian Harrington is on schedule with nominating committee. Though Ramona and Don volunteered to serve on nominating committee, they are likely being nominated. Their serving on the committee would be a conflict. Linda White has volunteered to serve on committee. To keep with our by-laws, election for Board of Directors is in August and January for Officers. The Board is looking for some new board members for fresh input and ideas. Someone who might be chair of a committee would be most ideal. We currently have 14 members of the board, but Brian may not be counted as he is prior president. According to bylaws, prior president is on board only by invitation of the board. We may then, have two spots to fill as maximum board capacity is fifteen.

## **Old Business:**

### **Meetings Attended –**

Don put together a press release to send out about our participation in the Legislative Breakfast, March 28<sup>th</sup>. It's about our attendance at and involvement in the breakfast at which Don and Melissa talked about the effects of septic systems and cyanobacteria. Don did talk with Susan Moran and Matt Muratore at the breakfast, making them aware of our concerns. Beth will take care of looking over the press release to see if it's something worthy of our sending along to the OCM news.

### **Boating Tours –**

Insurance Companies are giving us different answers on coverage for these tours. Answers vary from needing a policy because it becomes commercial when we send notification of the rides/tours through the Association's email, FB and newsletter; to, if each boat has a policy and its owner has a house insurance policy with general personal liability, it's like taking a bunch of friends out on our boats. Three of four of the insurance companies have coverage offered fitting our occasion. The board has no general insurance policy. Don says he'll fill out and submit one of the applications he has received for HPWA coverage of the boat tours to determine what the cost will be. It is suggested that perhaps the coverage could be obtained only for the summer months when we will host the tours. If coverage returns as unreasonably expensive, thousands vs. 5-6 hundred dollars, we may have to forgo the entire idea. Hopefully it will be reasonable as we've all decided it is a super fund activity to offer to our members. To be revisited.

### **Plymouth Herring Festival – It has arrived.**

With Melissa Ferretti heading up our contribution to the Plymouth Herring Festival, and, our many volunteers (Wampanoag volunteers, Jerry Levine, Ramona Krogman, Beth Sobiloff, Geri Williams, Don Williams, Brian Harrington) the event will be a success! The board discussed all logistics of a plan for the supplies, set-up, and manning to ensure its success. Some things will be delivered the night before, including the obstacle course. Raking of our assigned area at the festival may be necessary, as in past years, and will be done the day before. All supplies (corn husk doll, fish to color upon, crayons, bubbles, ping pong balls, water, tables, Wampanoag and HPWA brochures, etc.) are delegated to volunteers to bring the day of event. Set up will begin at 8 AM. Event begins at 10:00 AM, ends at 3:00 PM. We are expecting lots of participants with over 150 kids going through the obstacle course last year. Announcements of and reminders for the event are arranged. Lee will bring his previous years' expertise to help set up and run. It is a well-planned event at this point. Lots of enthusiasm expressed by Melissa and the rest of the board.

### **Money Donated to Manomet Youth Association –**

In 2017 HPWA donated \$5,000.00 to the Manomet Youth Association to jump-start the restoration of a building at Hedges Pond to be used as their clubhouse. There has been no progress on the renovations. Our check was made out to Manomet Youth Association, endorsed by Betty Cavaco. Don contacted Bill Cohan at Plymouth Town Hall about the funds. He said once the town contracts are complete, the money will go toward the clubhouse project. Bill will put this in writing for us.

### **Dates of Annual Meeting and Picnic –**

The picnic is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. Schedule conflicts make moving the Annual Meeting convenient. Brian Harrington motions the Annual Meeting be rescheduled to August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ramona Krogman seconds. Unanimously approved.

## **New Business:**

### **In-person Board Meetings –**

Don Williams wonders how everyone is liking our monthly board meetings via Zoom. Since Covid restrictions have lightened, we have the option to meet in-person, if we get unanimous agreement. The consensus was that Zoom is going well, more convenient to everyone's schedule. Don asks how the board might feel about having some of the twelve meetings in person. Brian Harrington motions that we meet in person two times a year during the warmer months. Jack Kedian seconds. Unanimously approved.

### **Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings, HPWA Picnic, and Annual Meeting:**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> (in-person at the William's home)**

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Picnic – August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Meeting – August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**!**

**President Don Williams asks for motion to adjourn meeting.**

**Motion by Beth Sobiloff**

**Second by Paul Denoncourt**

**Unanimously approved**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM**