

Herring Ponds Watershed Association
Annual Meeting
August 22, 2022

President Don Williams opens meeting thanking SEMPBA for the use of their beautiful facility; and, gives an outline of tonight's HPWA annual meeting agenda.

Business of Vote to Reinstate Slate B Directors – Brian Harrington, Nominating Committee Chair, lays out the re-election slate. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Linda White, Jack and Brian. The Committee agreed that Group B Directors should be renominated and reinstalled as Directors of the Herring Ponds Watershed Association. The Group B slate consists of: Phil Angell - Vice President of the Association, John Foye – Treasurer of the Association, Jack Kedian - Co-chair of the Water Quality Committee, Ramona Krogman - Chair of the Government Liaison Committee and Herring Count Organizer, Martha Sheldon – Chair of the Membership Committee, and Don Williams – President of the Association.

Brian Harrington asks for any additional nominations from the floor with no replies.

Brian requests the Secretary of the Association cast one vote for the entire slate. Secretary Trish O'Brien so moves. Beth Sobloff seconds vote of Slate B.

Brian confirms that, with no nominations from the floor, and no one interested in replying to request for discussion that Slate B be reinstated as Directors of the Herring Ponds Watershed Association.

All "Ayes" from the floor to Brian's "all in favor" request. No reply from the floor to Brian's "any opposed" request.

Group B directors are reinstalled.

Introduction of Board Members – Don Williams introduces HPWA Board of Directors: Phil Angell – Vice President and Archivist of meeting minutes and treasurer's reports, John Foye – Treasurer, Trish O'Brien – Secretary, Geri Williams – Outreach Committee Chair (responsible for Newsletter and Zoom Programs), Geri also performs tests and records results of some GHP water quality tests, Jerry Levine - Invasive Species Chair, Tom O'Brien – Safety Committee Chair, Paul Denoncourt – member-at-large, Martha Sheldon - Membership Committee Chair, Jack Kedian – Water Quality Committee Co-chair, Melissa Ferretti – member-at-large, Ramona Krogman – Government Liaison Committee Chair and organizer of Herring Count, Beth Sobloff – Communications Committee Chair and webmaster, and Brian Harrington – past president and Nomination Committee Chair.

President's Address to the Membership: The greatest challenge the Herring Ponds Watershed has faced is Cyanobacteria. We had blooms the last two summers. This year we had no bloom, but I think we just got lucky. A lot of factors go into a cyanobacteria bloom. This year the water stayed cool enough for the algae to take a lot of the phosphorus out of the water, the level of phosphorus was lower than the last two years. In addition, the water wasn't as hot to start with, and we haven't had any gully washer rainstorms to promote phosphorus runoff, except for today.

Two summers ago, during our first bloom, because of membership generosity, we got in a position to have a water quality study done on the pond to solve the cyanobacteria problem. Beth came up with the idea of putting a donate button on our FB page. We were meanwhile answering everybody's questions on what was going on in the pond. We were learning together at about the same time. Membership donated more than \$10,000, our share of

the Water Quality Plan, in less than two weeks. I am pleased to announce that we received the Water Quality Plan on Friday.

Now, the Report Review Committee – myself, Jack Kedian, Paul Denoncourt, Geri Williams, Jerry Levine, Brian Harrington, Jim Smith, Lee Pulis, Josh Adelson, and Tom O'Brien, are going to sit down with the Water Quality Plan and come up with some questions for our consultants, answers that we will need to help make the Plan a success. We will submit these questions to Kim Tower by mid-September. By the end of September, we'll have a pretty good idea of where we need to go with a plan to get the best water quality. We also need to prevent the cyanobacteria threat by keeping the phosphorus level low.

I've done some reading on water quality. The main pollutant is phosphorus. The WQ Plan came up with a target April phosphorus value - how much phosphorus we should have, total, in Great Herring Pond to have acceptable quality and avoid the cyanobacteria problem. Their recommended target value is 50kg. In April 2021, TP was 116, in May 142, in June 202, in August 279. There are two types of Phosphorus. One that is in the pond all the time in sediment, which emerges when dissolved oxygen is low. The other type of phosphorus gets washed in by rainfall, from septic tanks, and from other surfaces. The latter phosphorus comes from outside the pond. The Water Quality Plan determined that most of what comes in from the outside to Great Herring Pond comes from Little Herring Pond, 47%, from their septic systems. Another 41% of the GHP phosphorus comes from septic systems around Great Herring Pond. The Study says we'd have to remove septic contributions from both LHP and GHP to reach the 50kg target. This will be expensive and take a long time to implement.

We should start looking at removing other sources of phosphorus. How realistic is this target for doing away with phosphorus one step at a time? We could try a few things. I was talking with Jim Smith about the matter. Jim knows a lot of stuff. He suggests we filter the water coming out of LHP to get rid of 47% of the phosphorus. There are ways to do that; they are called permeable reactive barriers, dams that let the water flow through but trap the phosphorus.

There are other things we can do. Alum is a treatment for phosphorus that is already in the pond. Unfortunately, the pond phosphorus is getting replenished daily from run-off and septic systems. So even if we took out the phosphorus from the sediment, it wouldn't be enough to reach our goal.

The Report Review Committee will sit down with this Report and look for questions to ask of Plymouth and of our consultant. I am confident this Committee is going to come up with a plan to get us where we need to be. What the Water Quality Plan recommends is sewer on the ponds to solve the problem. It is doubtful this will happen. Plan B is our target.

Don answers questions from the floor.

Everyone enjoys an enjoyable and educational presentation on local birds given by Martha Sheldon and Brian Harrington!!!!!!

The night ended with a social hour with refreshments!