

**Herring Ponds Watershed Association
July 18, 2022 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes**

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

President Williams opened Monday, July 18th, 2022, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Approval of June 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Few changes: Was Phil Angell not Jack Kedian, as recorded, that spoke to Bill Keating's administrative assistant not Bill Keating himself, as recorded. Secretary to make these two changes.
Geri Williams motions to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes. Jerry Levine seconds.

Approval of June 2022 Treasurer's Report:

PDF format Treasurer's report to be sent to Phil for recording. Treasurer John Foye gives a summary of report.
Jack Kedian motions to approve June 2022 Treasurer's Report. Martha Sheldon seconds.

Treasury Discussion: Revisit of our 2017 donation of \$5,000 for the renovation Plymouth Youth Center at Hedges Pond. The check was endorsed in 2017 by Betty Cavacco who assures us the money will be used for the renovation of the youth center once the town approves the project. Problem seems to be that our \$5,000 donation is such a small amount toward the cost of the entire project. John Foye recommends that we wait it out until the town hopefully approves the project for youth use, our original intentions. Melissa Ferretti adds that recently Patrick Farah of the Town Planning Board contacted the Wompanoag, after they expressed interest in this same property. He walked them around this property as a possibility it could be donated back to the Wompanoag. It was originally theirs, but the church donated it to the town. It would be justice as it was stolen from the tribe. Melissa has visions the Wompanoag could incur the costs of the renovations including the cabins on the water for Wompanoag tourism. Don adds he could talk to Patrick Farah about the land being given back to the Wompanoag. It could make national headlines: "Pilgrims give land back to Wompanoag." Geri notes that some of this land is currently being used as a camp that we donate \$500.00 to each year, along with the YMCA camp. Jerry Levine would feel more comfortable if we could secure that check from Plymouth Youth Foundation, whose treasury holds the endorsed check, with the promise of return for the project if and when it is approved. Brian notes that it is unclear if the funds are still being held by this private foundation. John notes the check was never held by the town, but the PYF. Don will look into this matter again.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality Committee - Geri reports she has been doing a lot of testing on the water, monthly, sometimes weekly, and will continue to do so. She reads the samples with a fluorometer which measures the amount of phycocyanin from cyanobacteria and chlorophyll from algae and is keeping records. June sampling gave Geri a baseline. She's been using a tow net to gather the samples for testing. Kim Tower shared this information as a means being used on the Cape, yielding more accurate readings. Testing results so far indicate it is unlikely we will have a bloom this summer. We are fortunate to have someone like Geri Williams who is detail oriented and familiar with the science of water testing. We have her water testing records as a good baseline to predict trends in future years. Plus, monthly water samples are gathered by Kim Tower and the Water Quality Team and sent to SMAST at

Dartmouth for total phosphorus and nitrate readings. Jack, Don and Denise also will be going out again this week to take e coli samples, for comparison to samples taken in early summer to determine conditions are safe for swimming.

Invasive Species Committee - Jerry Levine reports that he has attempted to get in touch with Sara Grady who does our invasive species plant monitoring. He will continue to try to contact her and report back.

Membership Committee - Martha reports to date we have received \$6,400.00 in dues, including a \$2,000.00 donation from Lanny Smith, a relative of Jed Smith; and, another \$250 membership from Nick, who hasn't contributed in years. Don suggests we might think about adding a third membership level, perhaps \$500.

Safety Committee - Don saw Chad Hunter, Plymouth Harbor Master, out on the pond. Harbor Master patrol has been out many times this summer, reminding boaters rules of safe boating. Tom has connected well with them.

Geri has heard, Select Board, in particular Betty Cavaco, is trying to merge harbor master and his staff with the police department, which she thinks would stop lake patrol.

Nominating Committee – Brian Harrington reports he has 3 nominating committee members for class 2.

Old Business:

Boat Rides - There are four volunteer boats for boat rides: Jack Kedian's, O'Brien's, Solomini's, and Williams. We agree we should have a Board boat ride before offering them to the rest of our membership. We should each write up, including Joe Solomini, any known history, geographic points, and wildlife on the pond to share our knowledge with riders. Beth will work on the four volunteer boat owners scheduling and coordinate rides.

Grant Topics - As homework, everyone should bring suggestions for grants topics that would benefit the watershed.

Picnic – This year's picnic will be held on August 6th. Jack Kedian is heading up the picnic this year. Jerry is second chair. Phil has contacted the Weston's. They have generously agreed to our using their beachfront land again for our annual picnic. Jack will put signs up at various points to remind people of date, time and location. He'll put yellow tape around areas where parking is prohibited. There is plenty of parking for guests. The only cost will be food. Jack will pick up the food. There is a porta-potty on the property. Board members available will help with set-up and clean up. For any guests worried about Covid restrictions should feel free wear a mask and bring their own dish to eat but we'll offer single packages of chips available, in addition to our pot luck dishes. Beth and Martha will announce on FB and constant contact.

Annual Meeting – This year's annual meeting will be held on August 22nd. The venue for the meeting is the SEMPBA facility on Center Hill Road in Plymouth. The facility has the technology to have a hybrid meeting. Geri will let Beth know what tech equipment she needs to bring. Martha and Brian will do a bird presentation. Geri will bring iced tea, water, plates and napkins. She asks other board members to bring an appetizer or dessert to share with attendees. Email Geri what you'll bring. Pre-packaged food not necessary this year as Covid restrictions have been lifted. Committee chairs should be ready to talk a few minutes about challenges and accomplishments this year.

Clearcutting Postcard – Josh Adelson suggested that we send a postcard with run-off advise and rules and regulations on clearcutting. The idea is premature. We'll table this idea for later, after the CC has clarified their rules and regulations.

Second-Tier Volunteers – As another homework assignment, everyone should bring ideas to the next meeting how we can involve members in tasks or projects and ways of recruiting these second-tier volunteers.

Anyone Need Help – Don asks if anyone is overwhelmed with their HPWA tasks. No one needs help at this time.

Outreach – Joe Solomini has notified Don that his 10-year-old grandson, as a school project on enterprise, will be selling beverages and snacks on Saturday, July 23rd, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 PM. The proceeds will be donated to HPWA. Beth will announce on FB. Can buy by land, at Shore Road, or by pond at the Solomini's home.

The goal for the next newsletter is early September. Beth has performed a communication analysis of our outreach: 858 page likes of our FB page. Some of our recent posts have reached 3,300 people. 63% of newsletter recipients opened the newsletter. She also got numbers of clicks on each article in the newsletter to help the outreach committee target their audience.

Geri hasn't organized any upcoming programs. She's been tied up with water sampling and several possible speakers were not able to fit us in their schedule. Brian tells us that he and Martha ran into a group from MMA. They've been performing sampling of May Flies, found in the brook at Carter Beal's Conservation Area, as a way of monitoring water quality and pollution. They'll send Geri the name and email of the contact they obtained at their encounter in case she is interested in lining up a program on this subject. Beth also has a contact at the environmental program at MMA to send Geri.

Picnic – August 6th (rain date – August 7th)

Annual Meeting – August 22nd

BOD Meeting August - none

BOD Meeting September - September 19th

BOD Meeting October – October 3rd

President Don Williams asks for motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by John Foye

Second by Beth Sobilloff

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM