

**Ponds Watershed Association
December 19th, 2022, Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

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

Special Attendees:
Tess Goldmann and Lee Pulis

President Williams opened the Monday, December 19th, 2022, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made to approve the November 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of the November 2022 Treasury Report:

Motion was made to approve the November 2022 Treasury Report as presented by Treasurer John Foye. Motion was seconded and approved

New Education Chair:

Lee Pulis attended our Board meeting to suggest Tess Goldmann as our new education chair. Tess had submitted a resume for Board perusal prior to the meeting. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed she is an impressive candidate for the position. Because of by-laws and time of year, it was motioned that the board appoint Tess Goldmann as acting Chair of the HPWA's Education Committee. The motion is seconded and unanimously approved.

Herring Count Update:

Coordinator Ramona Krogman reminded the Board that it is time to start recruiting counters. Ramona added that a Zoom presentation on the herring count early in 2023 would help recruiting. She also said she plans to reach out to the home schooling groups that expressed interest last season.

Committees:

Water Quality Committee – Chair Don Williams updated the Board on the Water Quality Plan Review Sub - Committee's meeting with Ed Eichner and had submitted a detailed report on its happenings to the board prior to this meeting. Ed said he will commit to an informational Zoom meeting for membership in January 2023. He'll update membership on the town's progress with the Water Quality Plan and its goals for interim, short-term, and long-term water quality remediation. It was decided that HPWA can record the Zoom meeting to post for any members who cannot attend. The Board also discussed plans for acquiring funding through grants.

Outreach Committee – Chair Geri Williams reported that our newsletter will go out in January after we have heard from Ed Eichner on a date for his Water Quality Report Zoom meeting for members. Geri said she will also include a photo and information on our new Acting Chair of the Education Committee in the newsletter.

Old Business:

Plymouth Youth Foundation Donation – In further search of HPWA's 2017 \$5,000.00 donation to the Plymouth Youth Foundation for renovations of the youth center at Hedges Pond, President Don Williams recently sent a note to the town who forwarded it to the Quintal Brothers Community Trust as it had absorbed the Plymouth Youth Foundation a few years ago. Quintal Brothers Community Trust knew nothing of our \$5,000.00 donation. The board agreed that we should continue to pursue our donation since it is such a large sum. Next step will be that Don write a letter to Betty Cavacco, (who endorsed the original donation check) as Bill Keohan had suggested at our last meeting when he gave us a history of the Hedges Pond property, including it being managed by the Plymouth Youth Foundation, under Betty Cavacco, when we made our donation.

HPWA Social Events volunteer – Cheryl and Steve Nichols, who have volunteered to help HPWA with social events, will attend our next meeting to discuss volunteering.

Herring Festival – We have been invited again to participate in the town's Herring Festival, traditionally a Saturday at the end of April. We'll begin our planning over the next few meetings at the start of 2023.

Clear-Cutting on Little Herring Pond – Lee Pulis reported he unsuccessfully used a drone to count swans but incidentally found drone useful for visibility of clear-cutting. He reported this new clear-cutting activity. Tess Goldmann informed us that Wildlands Trust, where she is in charge of restrictions on Alper Preserve property, that she can take legal action against violators of clear-cutting if they are on Alper Preserve property; that, Lee should forward the drone footage to her.

Randy Parker letter – Don reported he is looking for support from organizations who would join us in challenging the Plymouth Conservation Commission and their lack of rule enforcement, before he sends the Randy Parker letter.

New Business:

Meeting Minutes – The board discussed the length of meeting minutes. They agree the meeting minutes should be condensed but the Committee Reports should be more detailed. They also agreed Committee Reports should be submitted for distribution the Thursday before each meeting. And, that the Secretary should submit approved minutes to all board members.

Re-election of HPWA Board Officers – Brian Harrington informed us that HPWA By-laws dictate that the Board will re-elect officers at the first meeting of the new year. The Board inquired of current Officers, their intentions to continue their positions: President Williams said he would like to continue as our President. Phil Angell would like to step down as our Vice President. Phil nominated Ramona Krogman for our next Vice President. John Foye would like to continue as our Treasurer and Trisha O'Brien agreed she will stay on as Secretary. These positions to be voted on at our first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, February 7th, 2023.

Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings:

Tuesday, February 7th

Tuesday, March 7th

President Don Williams asked for motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM