

**Herring Ponds Watershed Association
February 13, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

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

Special Attendees:
Cheryl Nichols, Steve Nichols, Lee Pulis, and Jim Smith

President Williams opened HPWA Monday, February 13th, 2023, Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Election of Officers:

Brian Harrington, Chair of Nominating Committee, led us through electing officers at this first meeting of each new year, as mandated by HPWA By-Laws:

President: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that Don remain as president of HPWA for a third term.

Vice President: Phil Angell, current vice president nominated Ramona Krogman to be our new vice president of HPWA. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that Ramona Krogman become new vice president of HPWA.

Treasurer: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that John Foye remain as Treasurer of HPWA.

Secretary: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that Trisha O'Brien remain as Secretary of HPWA.

Secretary Report:

Motion was made to accept December 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasury Report:

Motion was made to accept December 2022 Treasury Report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion was made to accept January 2023 Treasury Report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

2022 Year-end Budget to be presented and voted on at our March board meeting.

Treasurer John Foye is ready for audit. Auditing Committee: Phil Angell, Ramona Krogman, Jerry Levine, and Geri Williams volunteered to help perform audit.

Social Committee:

Cheryl and Steve Nichols have been recommended to Chair a Social Committee for HPWA. Cheryl and Steve attended tonight's meeting to communicate some of their ideas: a fourth of July boat parade, end of season boat parade, new ideas for our annual picnic, a family fishing event in June on the one day of the year when a fishing license isn't necessary to fish, meet your neighbor's day at GHP's sandbar, movie night on their outdoor movie theater system that can be seen and heard by land and water. Cheryl and Steve's ideas were well received by Board but some concern over boating events excluding those who don't have boats. An idea was suggested that we incorporate out "boat rides" idea from last year, offering rides at those events to include all.

Beth volunteered she could help publicize events on FB pages, newsletters, and email notifications.

A Motion was made to establish a Social Committee with Cheryl Nichols as Chair and Steve Nichols as Co-Chair. (HPWA Board can temporarily establish a committee and appoint chairs of a committee to act unofficially until it is voted upon at HPWA annual meeting, according to by-laws.) Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Clear-Cutting:

Lee Pulis and Jim Smith attended this month's Board meeting to discuss clear-cutting on Little Herring Pond. Tess Goldmann arranged a meeting with the Board of Wildlands Trust, on January 31, 2022, which included Lee, Jim, and Brian Harrington to discuss clear-cutting on Alper Preserve lands that abuts Little Herring Pond. It was decided that Wildlands Trust will send a letter to all preserve abutters explaining restrictions; will place signage on preserve property posting restrictions, and, will work on recruiting volunteers to act as watch dogs for violations.

A motion was made for HPWA to allot funding to the town for the Wildland's Trust letter to include residents across the street from Wildlands Trust land. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Don Williams is scheduled on agenda of upcoming Conservation Commission's monthly meeting, February 21st, at 7:00 PM to present a case of our long battle with clearcutting violations, their effect on pond's water quality, and Plymouth's Conservation Commission's lack of enforcement. Don will email Zoom meeting's information to all members for their opportunity to attend.

Committees:

Education Committee – Along with her submitted committee report, Chair Tess Goldmann, informed Board she is in planning stages of a children's "Story Walk" through preservation trails. Tess's idea is kids will read a story posted on trees throughout a guided walk. Tess's plan was well received by Board.

Water Quality Committee – Along with his submitted President's report, Chair Don Williams informed Board that Ed Eichner's presentation of results of the Water Quality Plan Study Zoom meeting has been rescheduled to February 16th at 6:00PM. New Zoom meeting information will be emailed shortly.

Membership Committee – Along with her submitted committee report, Chair Martha Sheldon informed Board that we'll need new brochures to include update of Water Quality Plan Study and new photos. Martha has been in contact with Chris Lewis to help.

Outreach Committee – Chair Geri Williams reported that our newsletter should be ready to go out in March, in time to recruit herring count volunteers and include results of Water Quality Study Plan. Geri also reported that she is currently working on two programs as Zoom presentations to offer our members.

Old Business:

Donation to Plymouth Youth Foundation – Don sent email to Betty Cavacco regarding our \$5,000 donation to Plymouth Youth Foundation with no reply.

New Business:

Herring Festival: Our annual participation in Plymouth Herring Festival is quickly approaching on Saturday, April 22nd, from 10:00am to 3:00PM. A motion for Tess Goldmann to be point person for festival was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Tess will make a list of tasks, assign volunteers to tasks, and make a work schedule. Lee and Teri Pekol have decided to volunteer again this year. Teri and Don will pick up obstacle course for an 8:00 AM set-up. We need volunteers to help with set-up and take-down of the course; to throughout day prepare kids for obstacle course and oversee their safety; and, to hand out and explain our literature.

Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings:
Tuesday, March 7th
Monday, April 17th
Monday, May 15th

President Don Williams asked for motion to adjourn meeting.
Motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Approved