

Herring Ponds Watershed Association
Monday, August 14, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Phil Angell, Paul Denoncourt, Tess Goldmann, Brian Harrington, Jack Kedian, Jerry Levine, Tom O'Brien, Trish O'Brien, Martha Sheldon, Beth Sobiloff, Don Williams and Geri Williams

Absent: Melissa Ferretti, John Foye, Ramona Krogman,

President Williams opened HPWA Monday, August 14, 2023 Zoom meeting at 7:07 PM

President Williams began meeting by thanking Geri for all her water testing on GHP; Paul for his water testing on Triangle Pond; and, Jim Smith for his on Little Herring Pond. The also thanked Cheryl and Steve Nichols for their successful movie night, and Phil for his heading up the picnic.

Secretary Report:

Motion made to accept June 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion made to accept July 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasury Report:

Treasury report tabled to next meeting by absence of Treasurer, John Foye

John Foye will be stepping down as Treasurer. Don will send out an email to board for replacement suggestions.

Committees:

Water Quality Management Committee – Don Williams, Chair, reported: All testing results staying low. David Gould plans on asking for funds to continue water testing, including flow rates to better evaluate a Permeable Reactive Barrier south of Carter's Bridge, town property, as an interim solution to sewerage. Whether herring can jump over PRB is still being looked into. S Mast will evaluate new water test results from Envirotech Laboratories, Geri's fluorometer readings, and flow rates for PBR recommendation.

MASSTC, County of Barnstable, continues innovating and experimenting additions for septic systems that separate nitrogen from waste. They are currently working on also separating phosphorus from waste. On September 20th, at SEMPBA in Plymouth, Bryan Horsley, MASSTC Operator and Project Assistant, will give a presentation on their research and products.

Outreach Committee – Geri Williams, Chair, reported she is planning on a September newsletter. And, announcing through email the Annual Meeting, 2nd Movie Night, and Programs.

Social Committee – Don Williams reported that Cheryl and Steve Nichols are leaving HPWA Board but staying on as Social Co-Chairs, an ad hoc committee. He added that perhaps we are doing too many events, that building community comes slowly.

Old Business:

Picnic – Phil Angell reported that this year’s picnic was perhaps the best year with about 30 attendees.

Donation to Plymouth Youth Foundation – Don heard from Mathew Muratore, Plymouth state rep, who contacted Don at the request of Betty Cavacco, who is upset about the \$5,000 donation. Mr. Muratore recommended we get proof of donation, proof of receipt of donation, then, find out from Secretary of State when and where the check was deposited. Mr. Muratore also informed Don that when Plymouth Youth Foundation merged with Quintal Family foundation, no moneys were passed from one to the other. On Matt’s helpful advice, we have possession of the cashed check made out to Plymouth Youth Foundation, specifically allotted to the Hedges Pond Clubhouse, as proof of donation. As proof of receipt, the same check is endorsed by Betty Cavacco. Don will contact Secretary of State to see if check was deposited into Plymouth Youth Foundation’s account.

Boat Rides – Jack Kedian reported there were two boat rides this summer. One taken by board members, and one by members. There has been no interest since. He thinks we should announce rides again in the Newsletter and on our Facebook page. Beth adds that we have over 1,000 followers on FB at this time.

New Business:

Annual Meeting – Geri reported she has continued planning the HPWA Annual Meeting. She had already secured the Little Red Schoolhouse as venue. She is bringing table cloths, iced tea, lemonade, and dessert. She has heard from a few others on what they will bring for refreshments and will send out an email to see what other board members may want to bring. She has arranged for the meeting to be hybrid. She is putting together a slide show of historical photos on Great Herring Pond. Don reported he has made up a meeting agenda – Water Quality Report, followed by Q&A, reports from selected Committee Chairs, slide show followed by attendees own past days’ stories on GHP, then, social hour.

Does anyone need help? - Geri Williams asks for help with Newsletter articles, people to write articles or come up with ideas for articles. Paul Denoncourt suggests Tess may be able to find a write-up on the Sept 23rd Wildlands Trust 50th Anniversary celebration that we could run in our Newsletter. Tess to get something to Geri.

Donation to Wildlands Trust – Don proposes that we donate to Wildlands Trust as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Discussion leads to an agreed upon amount of \$250. Motion made to donate \$250 to Wildland Trust is made, seconded and unanimously approved. Tess Goldmann recused herself from vote.

Letter Supporting Banning Sale of Nips in Plymouth – Ken Stone, who facilitates Sustainable Plymouth asked Don for a letter from our association to support Sustainable Plymouth’s efforts to ban the sale of nips in Plymouth. Motion is made that Don write a letter in support of banning the sale of nips in Plymouth. Motion is seconded and unanimously approved.

Swim Event – Phil Angell reported he has discussed a swim event with Tom O’Brien. They discussed it being a community building event on the pond to include swimmers, and, boaters and paddlers as spotters. Phil and Tom suggested we could schedule the event at the Annual Picnic next year. Event is in early stages of planning. It will be discussed at future meetings.

HPWA Mission – Don requested of Board that they individually start thinking about defining our goals and identity to discuss at upcoming meetings.

Schedule of upcoming BOD Meetings:

**Monday, September 18th
Tuesday, October 10th**

**Annual Meeting
Monday, August 21st**

Schedule of upcoming HPWA Events:

Boat Rides – beginning Tues., July 11th on Tuesdays with rain date on each Thursday throughout summer months

**Program with David Gould, “Restoring Plymouth, One Project at a Time” – Monday, July 25th
2nd Movie Night – Saturday, August 26th**

**President Don Williams asked for motion to adjourn meeting.
Motion was so moved, seconded and unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM**

approved