

Attending: Herb Gstalder, Laura Hewitt, John Duane, Tom Slack

Guests: John Riehl, Wes Downing

Excused: Jake Puffer

Call to order: 3:04pm

Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalder)

Gstalder reported that he and Hewitt had a Zoom meeting on January 5 with Amy Costa, Director of Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) and Sophia Fox, Aquatic Ecologist for the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS). In the meeting, Sophia Fox agreed in principle that the Town of Wellfleet could sub-contract to CCNS to test the water quality in the Wellfleet ponds three times a year (following the historic CCNS protocol) if the CCNS is unable to perform testing in any year for a lack of budget. In the meeting the participants worked out what the approximate cost of the sub-contracted cost would be.

Gstalder also reported that Julie Hambrook, the Project Director, Pond and Cyanobacteria Monitoring Programs of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) shared with Hewitt and Gstalder the compensation level in the APCC for positions similar to the half-time Pond Manager position that Gstalder and Hewitt will include in the draft of the Pond Management Plan.

These two data points were the last pieces of information needed before Hewitt and Gstalder could start drafting a Pond Management Plan to present to the full NRAB for discussion before presenting the draft to the Selectboard.

Harbor

Riehl said he wanted to talk to the Woods Hole Group on the concept of creating a downward angle for the flow of sediment from Mayo Creek which theoretically could increase the rate of flow of the sediment through the North Channel and carry it further into the Harbor. If this is at all possible a feasibility study would not be expensive. Riehl will report back to the Board.

Riehl also reported that he had received an email from Jay Norton, Director of Wellfleet Department of Public Works, indicating that the DPW had a grant of approximately \$100,000 to look into issues pertaining to the Harbor. The Board agreed to invite Norton to the next meeting to learn more about the grant.

Hewitt reported that the Assistant Town Administrator confirmed that we are following the proper procedure for retaining a consultant to help define the scope of the Harbor Management Plan. The Board will go into executive session after this meeting to discuss and vote on the proposal it has received. If the proposal is accepted, the NRAB will forward it to the

Assistant Town Manager for review. Town officials will negotiate a contract for the work. The contract will need to be signed by the Town Manager.

Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB)

Duane reported that as a member of the Shellfish Advisory Board he had received an email from Charl Sheller, President of the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance, concerning the protection of horseshoe crabs, and requesting the support of the Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board. This will be on the agenda of future SAB meetings. Duane will follow up on this and report back to the NRAB.

Open Space Committee

Slack reported that the Open Space Committee has accepted a parcel of land on Blue Heron Road that has a structure on it that must be removed. They have proposed receiving a \$25,000 grant from the Community Preservation Commission to remove the structure.

Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the 12/27/2023 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm

