

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

Guests: John Riehl, Rebecca Roughley (Asst Town Admin)

Call to order 4:05

Harbor Plan & Survey

- Hewitt and Asst Town Purchasing Agent, Rebecca Roughley, had a discussion prior to the meeting and a few of those points were also recapped at the NRAB discussion:
 - NRAB has been hoping to have a full harbor survey done to update what was tracked in the 1972 “Curley” report,
 - It is appropriate for NRAB members to approach organizations to discussion potential scope of a survey and to find out what other studies have been done, but we cannot imply or promise work.
 - Rebecca believes the NRAB should hire a consultant to determine whether some of the information needed to update the Curley report has already been collected by other agencies or groups. This will define what additional information needs to be collected for an updated Harbor Survey and the cost of doing it. A narrower, more detailed scope will likely help in our request for funds.
 - Rebecca will help NRAB request funds for a consultant. If our cost is $\leq$ \$10K, best practices dictate getting three bids unless the consultant is a registered engineer.
- Another topic, there are funds remaining (\$25K) from the 2021 ATM 25 which were intended to be used relating to investigation of using dredge spoils – initially either for
 - On-site dispersing the “black custard” so that the tides would carry material out to the bay
 - Using the dredged custard to help coat salt marshes to keep ahead of sea level rise.
- After some investigation neither option above seems practical, so there was discussion about whether to request Town approval to re-purpose the \$25K funds. There was also discussion about having black custard/dredge spoils naturally moved out of the marina area with the potential restoration of Mayo Creek. There was a request for John Riehl, as an unpaid consultant, to make a scientifically oriented inquiry about the viability of this idea with some engineer contacts and to report back to the NRAB.

Ponds Management Plan - (Gstalder, Hewitt)

- Since the last meeting we begun the first stages of writing the plan/update.

- We are expecting to receive the historical pond data from Sophia Fox of the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) some time in March.
- Hewitt and Duane attended a Freshwater Initiative [FWI] - run by Cape Cod Commission meeting with Hillary Lemos, Suzanne Thomas, and CCNS – Fox and Smith. We provided our general outline the plan – to create a baseline from which consistent monitoring and management can be pursued. CCC is doing a pond survey to attempt to get regional information on freshwater ponds. Less than 10% of Cape ponds have data, and about 4% have sufficient data on which to make evaluations.
- Wellfleet is #1 on the Cape for pond information to date due to the historic presence of the CCNS.
- Key issues FWI mentioned in moving forward for pond care: climate change, shoreline and vegetation issues, data/testing challenges, septic impacts etc

Open Space Committee update (Slack)

- Tom reported that CPC funds turned out to be more complicated than originally thought. Still working through usage.

Shellfish update

Minutes - Approval of draft minutes from 1/23/23, approved 4-0.

Adjourned 5+PM