

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

Excused: Tom Slack

Call to order: 4:10pm

Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalder)

Gstalder reported that he and Hewitt are lacking two data sets to finish a draft of the plan to submit to the Selectboard for their review and comment before preparing a final plan. The Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) has provided current data on the elements that define the health of the ponds included in the study. The CCNS has not yet supplied the comparable historical data needed to establish a base line. We have been told it will be available soon. We also need to establish the cost of testing for these elements by an independent laboratory. In response to a question from Puffer, Hewitt explained that the CCNS will continue to share data with the Town. We need to know the costs from an independent lab for contingency planning if the CCNS is not able to do the testing at some future date.

Harbor

Hewitt reported that she met with David Colton, Wellfleet Acting Town Administrator about the NRAB's effort to retain a consultant to do a survey of studies on the Harbor since the 1972 Curley report. Colton will try to suggest some candidates. He also told Hewitt that the Mass Bays Program, a part of the EPA that is working with the National Estuary Partnership, is engaged with the CCNS to do a Wellfleet harbor survey of sediment, eel grass and micro vertebrates. It is a three year program taking place next Spring and Summer with two additional years of monitoring. Hewitt spoke with the lead scientist, who is at Umass, Boston. who gave her the contact for the project at the CCNS, Holly Plaisted. We need to follow up with her and also contact JoAnn Muramato at the Association to Protect Cape Cod (APCC) who is involved with the project. Mass Bays has worked with Wellfleet on the Herring River project and on Mayo Creek. They also worked with Provincetown on their harbor study. The scientist at Umass asked whether Wellfleet participates with the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program and is thus eligible for state grants.

The Board discussed the scope of the work to be done by the consultant in researching previous harbor surveys. Board members also agreed to re-read the Curley Report and the Board's early draft of the proposed updated report. In addition to identifying existing reports the Board discussed whether the consultant should also work on defining the remaining work to be done and estimating the cost the proposed study. Puffer agreed to start the process of drafting a scope of work for the consultant. Hewitt said she had been advised by the town that asking an individual for a recommendation of a consultant does not rule a person out for the position if they file a conflict of interest form, but would double check this. The Board then agreed that they need to meet soon in executive session to discuss specific candidates for the consultant position.

Orleans Pollution Reduction

The board agreed that Wellfleet should write a letter of support to the town of Orleans for their effort to reduce pollution by restricting the use of fertilizer. Hewitt will ask whether the letter can be sent by the NRAB or should be sent by the Selectboard.

Shellfish

Duane reported that he was still looking for another recreational fisherman to join the Shellfish Advisory Board.

Puffer reported that the Wellfleet shellfish industry had its biggest oyster set in years.

Open Space

Tom Slack reported by letter that they are working on approval for an Open Space reserve fund. That would provide more flexibility in acquiring properties when they become available.

Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the July 31 and August 29 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm