

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

Guests: John Riehl (Consultant to the NRAB), Wes Downing, Diane Brunt

Call to order: 9:03am

### **Ponds Management Plan** (Hewitt and Gstalder)

Gstalder reported that since the last meeting he has received from the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) a set of historical data for the Wellfleet ponds. The data are 2010 and 2011 Spring, Summer and Fall measurements for Temperature, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Chlorophyll, Secchi Depth and Alkalinity. The CCNS had previously supplied these data for years 2021 and 2022, and another spreadsheet for 2021 and 2022 that included measurements of Nitrogen and Phosphates in the waters of the ponds. This data has not been supplied for 2010 and 2011. As we don't know whether other historical data will be supplied by the CCNS, so Gstalder and Hewitt will proceed with the draft of the Pond Management Plan with the historical data they now have. Gstalder said that he has historical data going back to the 1970's in the Gull Pond Area Conservation Association (GUPACA) files that he will make available to the NRAB. Hewitt emphasized the importance of our now having current and 2010 pH data, given the change and importance of the pH of the ponds.

Gstalder mentioned to the Board that there will be a meeting on Outer Cape water sources on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Truro Public Library.

### **Harbor**

Hewitt reported that she had not yet received an answer from Town Hall on whether our using an individual to recommend a consultant does or does not rule a person out for the position if they file a conflict of interest form. She will continue to pursue this. Puffer has circulated a draft of a job description for the consultant. Hewitt said the NRAB will need to meet in executive session to review the job description and possible candidates after she has heard from Town Hall. Puffer recommended that the members of the NRAB also re-read the 2022 Letter of Intent that includes the scope of work for the harbor Survey.

Hewitt will have a Zoom meeting with NPS scientists/representatives Holly Plaisted and Sophia Fox, based on the recommendation from Prassede Vella at the UMass School of Environmental Science, about their NPS/UMASS-Mass Bays study of eel grass in the Wellfleet Harbor and whether the NRAB could piggyback on their work. They may be too advanced for us to join in the study but it is worth asking.

John Riehl reported on the progress of the study by the Woods Hole Group (funds from the article that was approved at the 2021 Town Meeting) on alternatives for the disposal of dredging spoils known as black custard in the North Channel. John presented an interim report with the final report possibly finished in December or February. First, indications are that the exchange between Mayo Creek and the Harbor is fine and the restoration of Mayo Creek

should go well. However that may lessen but not eliminate buildup of black custard in the channel. The problem is that dredging the North Channel (to the planned negative five feet) may expose a dead area of black custard that could begin refilling the channel. The final report will address the question of the time frame and possible alternative solutions.

**Open Space.** Slack reported on a procedure underway to remove a 12 by 12 foot structure on four lots off Blue Heron Road that had been donated to the Town a year ago. Once the money is received to remove the structure the lots can be taken over and protected by the Conservation Commission.

**Shellfish** Puffer reported that the current discussions in the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) relate to regulations and do not involve natural resources.

Brunt was recognized by the Board to tell the Board that Orleans has passed a pesticide reduction bylaw. She had just sent a copy of the article to Hewitt. This must go to the state to have the state recognize Orleans ability to reduce the use of pesticides using home rule. Brunt asked the NRAB to take on this issue. Hewitt responded that at the last meeting the Board had approved a motion to send a letter of support to Orleans and are waiting for a response from the Town Administrator whether the letter should be sent by the NRAB or Selectboard.

### **Minutes**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the September 21 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.