

Minutes of December 16 2021

Attending – John Duane, Laura Hewitt, Tom Slack, Herb Gstalder, John Riehl (Chair)

- > Meeting called to order 10:05 am
- > Discussed revisions of current NRAB Charter, as currently shown on Town website
 - Agreed to change membership to 3-5 members plus one alternative
 - Agreed to include “Ponds” with “harbor” as an area of key concern
 - Discussed connection to Shellfish Advisory Board; agreed current language – from 1987 is out-dated. Recommended to consult with Shellfish Advisory Board
 - All votes agreed 5-0
- > Reviewed NRAB 2021 Town report; agreed final version (see attached) 5-0
- > Harbor Survey.
 - Reviewed strategy to prepare an RFP so as to have a more definite proposal For April 2022 ATM; JRiehl to create a draft
- > Dredging alternative
 - No proposals received as part of the RFP
 - J Riehl agreed to discuss alternatives suggested by Center for Coastal Studies, Including steps to reduce rate of “black custard” agglomeration
- > Ponds Project
 - Reviewed project outline from HGstalder
 - Agreed meetings with Wellfleet Board of Health and Conservation Commission
- > Minutes of December 1, 2021 (attached) approved 5-0
- > Meeting Adjourned 11:40 am

Approved – March 3 2022, vote 5-0

Town of Wellfleet

Natural Resources Advisory Board Report - 2021

The main activity of the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) in 2021 was to complete the Town's 3rd Harbor Management Plan. A copy is posted on the NRAB Town web-page.

The plan emphasized the need to complete several on-going projects including harbor nitrogen reduction, the Herring River restoration, and harbor dredging. All of these have made significant progress in 2021 through the efforts committees and individuals who have worked long and diligently toward these ends. These deserve continued Town support.

There are four chapters in the 2021 HMP, with new action proposals:

- I. Climate Change and its effect of the harbor – especially sea level rise and temperature increase. We note that this key issue was not even mentioned in 1995 or 2006.
- ii. Dredging. This is perhaps better known as “after-dredging”. The goal is to find ways to minimize future dredging and to make better use of dredge “spoils”.
- iii. Shellfishing. A review of steps that might be considered to enable the wild shellfish populations in the harbor to flourish, as an environmental and commercial benefit.
- iv. Survey of Wellfleet Harbor Marine Resources. This is an update of the 1972 “[CurleyReport](#)”. The goal is to provide a useful basis for tracking harbor changes.

Much of the further work of NRAB in 2021 has been to support implementation of these recommendations. A proposal for an alternative to conventional dredging was approved at the 2021 ATM. A proposal for a detailed harbor survey – needed to implement the other three action items – is being prepared.

NRAB has recognized that Wellfleet's ponds also need attention and planning. Learning discussions have taken place with pondside owners, the Seashore, APCC and the Town Beach Administrator. We intend to have a plan ready for Selectboard approval in 2022.

NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD - WELLFLEET POND MANAGEMENT PLAN - NEXT STEPS

DATE	PLAN ELEMENTS	QUESTIONS
	PROTOCOL FOR POND TESTING	Relative Importance of Nitrogen vs Phosphorus in
		Future of Cyanobacteria testing
		Are there certain elements at specific ponds which need additional focus?
	SEPTIC UPGRADES	Recommend use of current Enhanced Septic Systems or wait for P and N elimination systems?
		How best to encourage those with old cesspools to consider upgrades
		Consider letter to (near ponds) residents from NR about P and N and steps to reduce nutrient loading from septic and other sources
	REGULATION OF USE OF WELLFLEET PONDS	What does it mean that Commonwealth delegate has regulatory authority for ponds to Wellfleet not CCN?
		How formal is existing Wellfleet-CCNS working group?
		Why are only Duck and Great Ponds included in MRA Watershed maps?
		Does Wellfleet have authority to regulate use of fertilizers/products with phosphates?
	MANAGING RUNOFF TO PONDS	How critical is this for Wellfleet's ponds?
		Which ponds are affected?
	CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS	What and where are the invasive plants in Wellfleet?