

Attending: Herb Gstalder, Laura Hewitt, Tom Slack, John Duane, Jake Puffer
Guests: John Riehl, Herb Heidt (experience with Friends of Pleasant Bay)

Call to order 1:30

Approval of draft minutes (without change) from 8/23/22, approved 4-0

Ponds Management Plan update (Gstalder, Hewitt)

- reviewed status of ponds plan
- recent meetings with Wellfleet Conservation Trust, Farm Pond (Sherborn) – a mainland MA kettle pond with similar issues to Cape ponds, Orleans Pond Coalition,
- upcoming meetings planned with Sophia Fox (aquatic ecologist for CCNS), Jane Crowley – Eastham Director of Health & Environment, MASSTC – Sara Wigginton on AI septic systems re: phosphorus removal
- Wellfleet is in a unique position as all its ponds are within the CCNS who has been doing the monitoring of the ponds for decades and as historically followed the National Park Service guidelines of allowing nature to evolve
- some other Cape towns have a formal Pond Administrator (Orleans, Eastham) or someone with multiple jobs but responsibility for overseeing ponds
- some of these other towns have pursued “remediation” in the form of alum treatments and aeration

Invasive Plants Treatment (not formal from CCNS)

- We are told the phragmites treatment now being used is imazapyr, no longer using glyphosate. By 9/14 CCNS had treated phragmites in Gull, Higgins, and Herring ponds with imazapyr. They also found two purple Loosestrife in Higgins which were treated (and had not been seen since 2004).
- We plan to request safety information from CCNS on use of imazapyr.

Open Space Committee update (Slack)

- Review of some property donated to Town for conservation

Harbor Plan – future of survey update (Duane)

- Harbor Survey planning stalled due to lack of funds available
- Herb Heidt had served on Friends of Pleasant Bay and provided John D with background information and cost of recent Pleasant Bay survey work done in 2014
- Approved (5-0) John Duane to ask Town Purchasing Agent if NRAB can request estimates from 3 or 4 potential survey companies so know what we will need to request in terms of funds for a full Harbor Survey update

- Interest in pursuing grant and outside funding, John D and John R to also discuss with Town

Temporary positions to sign on behalf of NRAB (approved 5-0)

- Pond matters – L Hewitt designated*
- Harbor Survey and Harbor Conference – J Duane designated

*Need to check with Town that NRAB members can sign if non-resident tax payers.