HMP 2020 Introduction

This is the third Harbor Management Plan (HMP), after those of 1995 and 2006.

We are encouraged by the progress in the past 25 years.

In 1995, the key issue was harbor cleanliness. This was addressed in years following by a nearly universal adoption of Title V septics.

This report can be accessed on the Town of Wellfleet web-site, under NRAB:

< https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif5166/f/file/file/1995plan.pdf>.

The 2006 report also had a focus on harbor water quality, due then to excess nitrogen. A second key issue was tidal restoration of marshes that were isolated by diking, especially the Herring River and Mayo Creek estuaries. Link is:

https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif5166/f/file/file/harbor.pdf

Work on several of the issues from 1995 and 2006 is on-going. We recommend as priorities that these projects be supported to completion:

> Nitrogen. The Comprehensive Waste Water Planning Committee is working on a plan.

> Herring River restoration. The project is in the midst of the permitting process.

> Mayo Creek restoration. A draft plan needs implementation.

> Harbor dredging. Not a priority in 2006 but became one due to cost and scheduling

Issues. A good plan is in place which needs to be fully implemented.

> Coastal Resiliency. An initial report for this four Town project has been issued by the Center for Coastal Studies (ref 1).

1. There are four chapters in the 2020 HMP:

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. Survey of harbor life. This is an update of the 1975 “Curley” report. The goal is

to provide a useful basis for tracking harbor changes.

iii. 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”.

iv. 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.

Finally, we are of course aware of possible social consequences of climate change. For example increased tidal flooding of road and uplands, for example east Commercial Street, Mayo Beach and Lieutenant Island is likely. These concerns are outside the scope of this report: we note that adequate Town planning is needed to minimize damages.