HMP 2020 Introduction

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

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

 The 2006 report also had a focus on harbor water quality, in this case due to excess nitrogen. A second key issue was tidal restoration of marshes that were isolated by diking.

 Work on several of the issues from 1995 and 2006 is on-going. We recommend that these projects be managed as priorities 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, with additional testing and estimate of the benefit to the north marina channel.

 > The CWWPC is facing a number of difficult decisions requiring Town input.

 > 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.

1. There are six 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.

 v. Coastal Access and Shoreline Land Use. We seek to ensure and enhance rights of citizens and shellfishermen to access the harbor. An appendix of this report

 is a stand alone “Coastal and Pond Access (CPA)” report prepared by NRAB.