

Attending: Herb Gstalder, Laura Hewitt, Tom Slack, John Duane
Guest: Kathleen Bacon

Call to order: 4:05

Harbor Survey Update

Duane reported that Select Board sent two signed copies of the Harbor Survey request letter to the Division of Massachusetts Fisheries (DMF) requesting their participation in and funding of the Wellfleet Harbor Survey. The article approving the allocation of \$10,000 for the consultant was approved at ATM on April 29. As Rebecca Roughly has resigned, Duane will contact Ryan Curley and John Portnoy for suggestions of a consultant to research studies that have been done on the Wellfleet Harbor since the 1972 Curley Report. Duane will copy the NRAB on his messages to Curley and Portnoy.

NRAB unanimously passed a resolution to donate \$300 again this year to the State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference in November.

Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalder)

Gstalder reported that the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) has now committed to getting the historical pond data to the NRAB in the very near future. The delay had been caused by a senior staff member having to take a family health leave of absence. The historical data will be matched with the current data already received to create a base line for tracking the health of the ponds. Hewitt reported that we are working on the estimated cost of a full-time or half-time Pond Manager position. Having this information will allow us to finish the presentation to the Selectboard. Separate from the NRAB pond management plan, she and Gstalder held an initial meeting of volunteers to create a Wellfleet Ponds Coalition which they increasingly see as an important element in the effort to protect the ponds.

The NRAB passed a motion unanimously to donate the balance of the unspent funds, after the \$300 donation to the State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference, to the Town of Wellfleet to help defray the cost of the 2023 Cyanobacteria testing, an amount estimated to be \$750.00. Kathleen Bacon advised that Meredith Ballinger in the Health Department would be the appropriate contact to help with this donation.

Open Space Committee

Slack reported that the survey on the importance of open space in the community received approximately 450 positive responses. The Committee has been studying issues on properties on Blue Heron Road and Paine Hollow Road.

Shellfish

Duane reported that the Harbor dredging mitigation plan is the big issue in the shellfish community with the shellfish community largely against it. Bacon explained the current status to the NRAB. There was a well-attended public hearing on the mitigation plan on May 23, two days before the current NRAB meeting. The town needs to reach an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers on a mitigation plan by June 30 to receive a \$2,500,000 grant toward the third and final stage of the Harbor dredging. The town is now working on a fourth draft of the plan. This phase will dredge the South Mooring field. The town is currently losing approximately \$100,000/year in lost mooring fees from this area. Initially 14 acres will be set aside in Herring River and 14 acres in Blackfish Creek. After a year, the Herring River parcel will be freed and 14 acres will be added to the Blackfish Creek area. The 28 acres of tidal bottom in the western part of Blackfish Creek that would be set aside from use for years in the plan is an area that has been impaired and degraded for years. Duane responded that he thought the town was on the right track.

Minutes - Approval of draft minutes from 4/24/23, approved 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm