

Attending: Herb Gstalder, Laura Hewitt, John Duane, Tom Slack

Guests: Diane Brunt, Jude Ahearn

Call to order: 1:00PM

Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalder)

Gstalder reported that since the last meeting he has been in contact with Amy Costa, Director of Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) and Sophia Fox, Aquatic Ecologist for the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) about preparing an estimate for the cost of testing the water quality in the Wellfleet ponds. The draft Pond Management Plan will include a contingency estimate for testing the ponds three times a year if the CCNS is unable to do it in any year. Amy Costa said that the CCS could provide the estimate but suggested we contact Sophia Fox, who has offered to provide the estimate. We are now waiting to receive the estimate. Hewitt added that we are close to having a draft to discuss with the Selectboard.

Slack brought to the NRAB's attention a meeting of the Harwich Conservation Trust on December 11 at 6:00pm on the status of the Six Ponds Resource Management Initiative. The meeting will be via Microsoft Teams Webinar.

Harbor

Hewitt reported that we had received clarification from Town Hall that using an individual to recommend a consultant does not rule a person out for the position if they file a conflict of interest form. Similarly, if we employ a consultant from an organization who later is involved in bidding for work that the town later approves, a disclosure should be made relating to potential interest in bidding towards potential later work. In response to a question from guest Jude Ahearn, Hewitt responded that approval had come from the Assistant Town Administrator. Guest Diane Brunt commented on the importance of representatives from town agencies with overlapping interests such as the Shellfish Advisory Board, Natural Resources Advisory Board and Conservation Committee to attend each other's meetings.

Open Space. Slack reported that the Open Space Committee will hold a public meeting on December 7 to discuss the survey of residents on the importance of open space in several areas. This is part of their five-year plan.

Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the October 23 meeting.

Question from visitor: In answer from a question from guest Diane Brunt on possible NRAB discussion and support to reduce use of pesticides, Hewitt said that the NRAB is interested in the topic, but that any letter issued on the subject must come from the Selectboard.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm