

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

Guests: John Riehl

Call to order: 1:00PM

### **Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalter)**

Gstalter reported that he and Hewitt have a Zoom meeting scheduled for January 5 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 three times a year following the CCNS protocol. They believe the Pond Management Plan should include a contingency estimate for testing the ponds if the CCNS is unable to do it in any year given the accelerating rate of climate change.

### **Harbor**

Hewitt reported that she and Duane had a phone meeting with the leading candidate to assist the NRAB in preparing the proposed updated Harbor Survey for the Selectboard. The consultant would help define the scope of the work and identify what studies of the Harbor have already been done. The candidate plans to submit his proposal by January 5<sup>th</sup> that gives his view of the cost and scope of the work to prepare a RFP to be submitted to the Selectboard. The NRAB will then have a special session to review the candidate's proposal.

### **Mayo Creek Sediment Analysis**

Riehl led a discussion of the preliminary report prepared by the Woods Hole Group on the Mayo Creek Sediment analysis in reference to the dredging of the North Channel of Wellfleet inner harbor. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Riehl recommended the Board accept proposal #2 on page 8 for increasing the tidal flow as that alternative provided the greatest increase in tidal flow into the Mayo Creek Marsh restoration area without overflowing private properties at high tides. Riehl, however, cited two concerns that were not addressed in the study. The first was that the dredging of the North Channel will go to a depth of five feet below low tide. Flow of the sediment from Mayo Creek will lessen the beneficial effects of the increased tidal flow as the sediment will gravitate to the lowest dredged level. Secondly, it was not in the scope of the report to study the impact of future sea level rise on Mayo Creek. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to accept the report and once the final signed report is received to forward it to the Selectboard with the recommendation that the Selectboard consider the further engineering work cited in the study. The Board will also distribute copies of the study to the Town Administrator, Harbormaster, Waste Water Committee, Mayo Creek study group and other interested parties. The Board also approved unanimously the acceptance of the invoice for approximately \$10,000 from the Woods Hole Group when it is received.

**Shellfish Advisory Board.**

Duane recommended that the NRAB keep the Shellfish Advisory Board informed as the Harbor Survey work progresses.

**Open Space Committee**

Slack reported that the Open Space Committee's public meeting on December 7 to discuss the survey of residents on the importance of open space was well attended and produced several ideas that the committee will follow up on. Members of the Committee have been conducting the annual inspection of properties under ConsCom protection. Finally, Slack reported that the Committee submitted a proposal to have Conservation Preservation Funds come directly to the Open Space Fund so that the Committee can use the funds without having to go through Town Meeting each time.

**Minutes**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the November 30 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.