

Attending: Herb Gstalder, Laura Hewitt, Tom Slack, John Duane, Jake Puffer
Guest: John Riehl

Call to order: 4:10

Duck Harbor (Puffer)

Puffer reported on the site visit to Duck Harbor Friday, March 24 conducted by the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) at which Puffer represented the NRAB. The project has already cleared 35 acres of the Duck Harbor overflow of a projected 125 acres. The overflow had given the CCNS the opportunity to clear land which will eventually be connected to the Herring River as all the overflow area will drain into the Herring River Basin.

Ponds Management Plan (Hewitt and Gstalder)

We are still waiting for the Wellfleet ponds historical data from Sophia Fox of the CCNS. This was to be delivered by the end of March.

Hewitt and Gstalder are beginning to write the first draft of the report.

On a related matter, they will be working in April with members of the Wellfleet community to form a Wellfleet Ponds Coalition to support the town eventually in the management of the ponds. Several other Cape towns have active pond coalitions which assist with monitoring, education, and advocating for the ponds.

Thin Level Deposition (or thin layer placement)

Board members Hewitt, Duane, Slack and Guest Riehl discussed the status of the study of thin layer disposition of the dredging spoils known as "Black Custard".

Rebecca Roughley had informed the NRAB after the 2/27/23 meeting that the Dredging Task Force in conjunction with the CCNS was also studying what can be done with the Black Custard. Hewitt and Duane subsequently had an introductory call with Chris Allgeiers of the Dredging Task Force. Riehl said there was some discussion of depositing spoils on federal property but the CCNS has a concern that this could compact the soil.

Riehl is also looking into the potential impact from Mayo Creek tidal flow which, if increased, would naturally carry Black Custard farther upstream and into the harbor. Both Riehl and Slack mentioned other projects in Massachusetts that are studying the same issues. It was reported that the \$25,000 encumbered by the NRAB to study thin layer deposition can still be sequestered for another year.

Harbor Survey Update

The entire Board discussed the status of the Harbor Survey.

The NRAB expects the warrant requesting \$10,000 to hire a consultant to pass on the April 29 ATM. This will allow the NRAB to start identifying potential consultants to survey the harbor

studies available since the Curley Report. Rebecca Roughley (Asst Town Admin) has some suggestions for consultants to be considered.

Duane contacted Brad Chase of the MA Division of Marine Fisheries to inquire about their possible funding and/or interest in funding and managing an updated harbor survey project, and was encouraged to apply. The draft of the letter to be presented to the Selectboard (for approval) was approved 4 -0. If approved the Selectboard will send the letter to the DMF requesting their funding/participation of the Harbor Survey. Duane also reached out to a contact on the Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative who subsequently informed Senator Julian Cyr of the Harbor Survey.

NRAB Annual Budget

The Board discussed the utilization of the annual budget, which expires on June 30th. There was general agreement to utilize the funds for the Wellfleet Harbor Conference and to defray the cost of the 2023 Cyanobacteria monitoring which the town does with the APCC. There followed a discussion of donating funds to the Wellfleet Health/Conservation Department to defray the APCC costs, supporting an intern to manage the sample collections through May to October or working to increase the citizen volunteers. Duane and Gstalder will explore volunteers and the possibility of an intern before the April meeting and Hewitt will send Hillary Greenberg a note about the Cyanobacteria monitoring costs. A vote on the appropriation of the funds will be held at the next meeting.

Brief Reports

Hewitt mentioned that there was a growing need for cross committee meetings in view of shared interests and projects. For example, there are several committees monitoring the development of IA septic systems in view of their shared interest in clean water.

Slack reported on the Open Space Committee's work of allocating CPC funds for specific projects.

Duane reported on the recent meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee meeting at which the citing of the federally mandated acres required to be set aside would be located.

Minutes - Approval of draft minutes from 2/27/23, approved 4-0.

Adjourned at 5:15