

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

Guest: Kathleen Bacon

Call to order: 4:05

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

Hewitt noted that she had previously distributed to the NRAB members and Kathleen Bacon a draft of the initial Pond Management Report that she and Gstalder are proposing to submit to the Selectboard. They are still waiting for the historical water quality data of the ponds from the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) to complete the draft. Hewitt asked for comments. In response to a question from Puffer, Gstalder explained the complicated ownership of and regulatory authority of Wellfleet's ponds. Bacon added that she believes the control of the landing on Higgins Pond has devolved to the (CCNS) due to the difficulty of controlling overuse and upkeep. There followed a discussion of the Pond Manager position in the draft. Puffer supported the position. Bacon cautioned that the town cannot likely afford to add another fulltime position now. The town budget to be presented to ATM on Saturday has a \$4.4 million over-ride, partially to cover new required positions, and she knows two new positions will be coming up. Gstalder told her that he and Hewitt were aware of the town's financial challenges when they included the new position in the plan, but they understood the NRAB's role to be to study what is needed to preserve Wellfleet's natural resources and propose solutions to the Selectboard. Hewitt added the full implementation may not be in the current year. Bacon recommended that draft report include a job description and salary range of the position.

#### **Thin Level Deposition**

Hewitt and Duane reported that the NRAB with the assistance of John Riehl and talking with the Dredging Task Force is still studying the possible use of thin layer deposition of the dredging spoils and potential Mayo Creek black custard issues. They will have more to report at the next meeting.

#### **Harbor Survey Update**

Duane will present at ATM on April 29 the article requesting \$10,000 to hire a consultant to research recent studies that have been done on the Wellfleet Harbor since the 1972 Curley Report. Duane will also present to the Selectboard on May 16 the letter the NRAB is requesting the Select Board to send to the Division of Massachusetts Fisheries (DMF) requesting their participation in and funding of the Wellfleet Harbor Survey. The letter was approved at the 3/28/23 NRAB meeting.

Bacon reported that Wellfleet has a deadline of June 15 to submit a dredging mitigation plan to the Army Corp of Engineers required to receive a \$2.5 million dollar state grant for the November 2023 harbor dredging. There followed a discussion between Duane and Bacon on the size and location of the required mitigation areas and the impact of the locations on the

shellfish industry. Duane or Bacon will clarify both the size and the location of the areas for the next meeting.

**Open Space Committee**

Slack reported that long-time Chairman Bruce Hurter will be retiring. The new Chairman will be John Grieb.

**Minutes** - Approval of draft minutes from 3/28/23, approved 4-0.

**Next Meeting** – tentatively agreed 5/25/23 at 4:00.