

HERRING PONDS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

42 Carters Bridge Road Plymouth MA

Submitted by Secretary Margaret Burke

Members in attendance: Brian Harrington ex officio; Martha Sheldon; Don Williams; Geri Williams; Ramona Krogman; Jerry Levine; Margaret Burke; John Foye; Zack Tympanick (HPWA Intern).

Don Williams brought the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Glorianna Davenport, Trustee of Tidmarsh Farms and President of the Living Observatory, spoke to our group about the nature of the UMass Massachusetts Surface and Ground Water Iso-scape Project. There is a focus study of the Plymouth-Kingston-Carver-Duxbury aquifer system and associated receiving waters (ponds, lakes, streams, and wetlands). Glorianna explained that the project is seeking volunteers to sample their well water as well as local streams and ponds in the region to provide an understanding of the flow paths of water in the region. The overall goal of the project is to develop a baseline of environmental isotopes to understand hydrologic functioning of surface and ground waters throughout Northeast US. Glorianna provided sampling kits and information to those board members who will sample their wells. Don will send an e-mail to the HPWA members asking for volunteers. Also, on a different note, Glorianna said she would distribute milkweed seeds or germinate them for the HPWA Monarch Butterfly Initiative.

Next Zack gave a report on his analysis thus far of the water quality data. Don indicated that based on his analysis showing the phosphorus decreasing in the pond that perhaps the remediation projects had contributed to the decrease in relation to rainfall and that this can be measured by looking at the rainfall data. If it is proved to be accurate, this could affect the remediation dollars we might receive and could benefit the whole area as a much less expensive way to positively affect area water quality.

The September 24, 2018 minutes were reviewed and there was a motion to approve the minutes and a second with the motion passing unanimously.

The September Treasurers Report was reviewed and there was a motion to approve and a second with the motion passing unanimously. The October treasurers report was reviewed with a motion to approve and it was seconded with the motion passing unanimously. The

HPWA 2018 Budget (12 month) report was reviewed with a motion to accept and a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion that Don contact Phil and Jerry Levine to be auditors again this year with a second and the motion passed unanimously. Ramona said she would like to have a kickOff party for the herring counter volunteers. Ramona will put a packet together with the costs for the party and jackets for the volunteers. There was a motion to approve a \$250.00 contribution to sponsor the WAA bi-annual Water Conference with a second and the motion passed unanimously. Don reported that we are not getting our watershed grant as there are other communities considered more in need. Brian is willing to do a pre-proposal to attempt to obtain a federal EPA grant, Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program. If we qualify, it is thought that we could do a watershed study of the Herring River Watershed with the goal of creating an overall watershed management plan. The final proposal is due in February and Brian is willing to do the grant writing in coordination with Don. There was a discussion of the highly informative and successful October public meeting. It was decided to temporarily put off the brainstorming meeting.

Geri said that the HPWA Public Meeting will be March 16th. and will be co-sponsored by Wildlands Trust at their barn. It will feature a Bristol County Agricultural High School teacher and students presenting information on their program on fostering endangered turtles. They will bring an adult red bellied turtle. There is a possibility that there may be some baby turtles available for viewing. Jerry mentioned that there will be a half hour program on septic systems on PACTV. Sara Grady e-mailed Jerry that there are no invasives in the pond. Topics for future meetings were: another coyote talk; Ivan Mikolji's slides; bats; little tanker training program; global warming and the effect on birds and animals. A possible project for the spring is the stenciling of the no dumping signs on road drains. Next BOD meeting December 18th. Don adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

BOD Meeting Agenda 11/19/18

- 1) Glorianna Davenport Testing Program
- 2) Minutes approval -- Peg
- 3) Treasurer's report approval and 9 month budget status -- John
- 4) Committee reports

5) Old Business

- a) Help for Lee as webmaster progress, plan? -- Lee
- b) Any new thoughts on new BOD members -- All
- c) Availability to follow up Brainstorming meeting to "get the word out" – Brian, Don
- d) Feedback on joint meeting with Wildlands Trust featuring Dr. Nate -- All

6) New Business

- a) Contribution to WAA Biannual Water Conference – Don, John, All
- b) Water quality data study report – Zach
- c) Grant status -- Brian

6) Any other business?

7) Adjournment

November 19, 2018

Board of Directors,

The activities and plans of the Water Quality Committee are summarized below:

Activities:

- Jim Smith's October E. coli sample was low as was the October nitrate sample.
- Zach will summarize his findings thus far for water quality data at the meeting.
- Kim Tower (Plymouth) has alerted HPWA to the availability of grants for water monitoring costs.
- Summer swimming area E. coli results have all been well within state guidelines for swimming
- Kim Tower informed us recently that we did not receive a watershed management plan grant. She said that other groups with more serious problems and facing potentially costly remediations have priority for the funding.
- The HPWA DO meter could not be calibrated for the June sampling; Kim will buy HPWA a new probe.
- State Senator Vinny deMacedo had a tour of what HPWA has done for runoff remediation. Also represented were DPW and DMEA. DPW is working on setting up a regional DPW runoff remediation taskforce. Don wrote a draft letter for Jon Beder to send to DPW heads.
- Fall Town Meeting passed a revision of wetlands bylaws that incorporated increased protection for wellheads. In my opinion, the new bylaws are a step in the right direction, but far short of what is needed.
- Jerry Levine and Don took DO readings at the deep point of Great Herring Pond at 1 meter increments in October. There was dissolved oxygen even at the deepest reading although there is always room for improvement.

Plans:

- Jim Smith will continue to take monthly E. coli and nitrate samples at LHP in order to establish baseline readings of swan influence on E. coli levels and to assess the health of the Plymouth-Carver aquifer under the Herring Ponds watershed
- The WQC will work with Plymouth to develop new bylaws to protect wetlands and the Plymouth-Carver aquifer.
- Kim Tower told Jack, Jerry and Don that remediation of additional runoff sites will be difficult either due to high water table, limited space for catchment basins or lack of a paved road. Don will talk to Plymouth engineering about possible alternative runoff solutions when things slow down a bit for Plymouth Engineering
- The Watershed Action Alliance is planning a Water Quantity conference on March 29, 2019. They are requesting a grant from HPWA for support.

EduCom Report – for November 19, 2018 ExCom Meeting – Lee Pulis

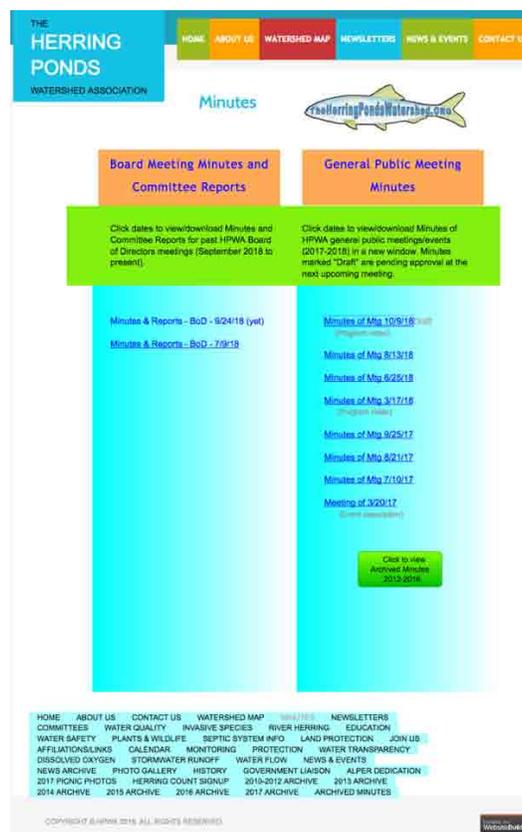
Since last meeting

- Many donated items for the proposed April (but could be later) 2019 Shed Faire are already accumulating, stored on 2nd floor of Phil's garage. While Phil's away, email Lee to arrange for a time to coordinate with Sandi and add your items to storage. It will help to have key known items (such as the rain barrel, fishing rod, and box of nature books) to list in future publicity/promotion.
- Hedges Pond Hall renovation, per Bill Keohan, CPC chairman: "Over the Spring and Summer I was able to update the scope of work and estimates for the electrical work...Betty is working on a meeting with Rec Department." A member-donor inquired about the project and was directed to Bill. Too early to tell if the hall might be available as Shed Faire venue.
- Member Teri Pekol Kreitzer asked "Who wants to help Monarch butterflies?" after the October 9 program at Wildlands Trust, and then demonstrated how to harvest milkweed seeds. She also provided take-home packets of a blend of seeds she harvested locally for Fall planting.



- Glorianna Davenport has agreed to work with HPWA on starting plugs from local native milkweed in the Tidmarsh Living Observatory greenhouse for Spring planting. In addition, White Cliffs Country Club will let HPWA members adopt caterpillars next year from their milkweed patch to raise inside with predation protection.

- The 1.3-hr October 9 program by Dr. Nate Horwitz-Willis, including Q&A, filmed by PACTV, is available online at: <https://youtu.be/SH--iESnUaw>
- Walking sticks and wizard wands were replenished at Alper Preserve on Nov 14. The HPWA plant trail orientation pole sign was lying on the ground, so was re-erected. The directional arrow sign toward trail end is missing. Plant labels are holding up well, ready for post-Thanksgiving family strolls. There were some new charred wood remains, which are now scattered in underbrush. Two wood pallets, one burnt, are present in the middle open area; burnt dorm fridge still there. The road is now cleared of newly fallen limbs except for one large one yet, requiring a saw to move. Yellow paint circles have been sprayed on several roadside trees, for no apparent reason. Very little additional trash found. Gean Richards bench is looking pristine. Leaves are down, so good views of both ponds. Only 5 swans seen on LHP.
- HPWA's website Minutes page has been revamped with two columns now for:
 - a) links to approved Minutes with Committee Reports for Board meetings, and
 - b) General Public Meeting Minutes, including a Draft of the most recent meeting pending vote of approval by members at the next meeting. Links to program slides or videos are included when available.



Facebook social media posts since last report (contributors welcome):

- Nov 14: Posted photos of orange brain-like fungus on stump at Alper Preserve – ID?



- Nov 14: Shared Camp Bournedale Open House post – Saturday, Dec 8, 10-3:00
- Nov 4: Posted photos of send-off of Frank Mand on his Walking Home US project
- Nov 1: Posted link to 1.3-hr PACTV video of HPWA’s October 9 program by Dr. Nate Horwitz-Willis
- Oct 22: Post RE first overnight frost and 2 screech owls back in roost boxes
- Oct 20: Posted photos and 2018 HPWA herring count data from River Herring Network annual meeting in Falmouth (Oct 18)
- Oct 17: Shared post and congratulated NOAA, Town of Plymouth, and others on completion of Town Brook restoration (Holmes Dam removal)
- Oct 10: Shared the date of WAA March 29, 2019 conference on “Water – New England’s Next Big Challenge”
- Oct 10: Thanks to wildlands Trust for hosting, with photos of Oct 9 Public Meeting
- Oct 3: 12-photo album on potential 2019 HPWA Monarch Butterfly Project
- Oct 3: Shared video on renewable jobs - how wind turbine blades are made
- Oct 2: Shared SEMPBA’s invitation to stop by and meet their 2 new red-bellied cooters
- Sep 29: Ramona’s photos of trail riding in MSSF
- Sep 26: Shared Pew Trust’s post on New England Fishery Mgmt Council’s vote to extend buffer on midwater trawling for herring
- Sep 25: Fall 2018 Newsletter link

Invasive Committee Report 11/19/2018

On September 6th the invasive committee and Sara Grady sampled Great Herring Pond and Little Herring Pond for invasive plants. We used boats provided by Don and Jim. We did not identify any invasive plants in the water. Be aware that we sampled only the water not the shore.

There are four species that have been present in all four 4 years of sampling (2010, 2016—2018):

Elodea nutalli-slender/western waterweed

Najas guadalupensis-common waternymph

Utricularia vulgaris-common bladderwort

Vallisneria Americana-wild celery

All of these except *Najas* were present in LHP. There were two species that were new GHP (but not invasive) this year – *Heteranthera dubia*-water stargrass, and *Potamogeton richardsoni*-Riocharson's pondweed. LHP had two species that are not present in GHP-*Elatine* sp.-waterwort and *Nymphaea odorata*-white water lily.

We will continue sampling GHP and LHP on an annual basis, using Sara Grady as our resident expert.

I have been in contact with several experts to set up a seminar this coming summer to discuss control of invasive plants on public and private property.

Please be aware if you notice any plants that might be an invasive contact me and I will sample/identify the plant.

GHP has public access to boats that have been in other ponds. Most of these boats have not been washed down before they are launched into GHP. This factor has the potential of allowing and invasive to enter GHP.

The state of MA has several publications on invasive plants, I have some copies and would be happy to provide them.