

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 16, 2016**

Opened Meeting: 3:08 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Sue Vachon, Ann Nemrow, Anne Perry, Burr Taylor, Paul Ciesielski, Mark Eyerman, Planner. Absent: Deirdre Strachan, Wendy Batson.

Approval of 2/17 and 3/02 Minutes: Both minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Announcements:

Charity Shore Subdivision Development:

M. Nahf attended the site visit to review Charity Shore's application for a community wharf system that contains an easement for a trail. From the Commission's perspective erosion control was addressed. It will be heard by the Planning Board at their next meeting.

Scott Moody Aquaculture Building:

Upon completion of the wetland delineation and a more detailed plan for the proposed structure, S. Moody was granted permission by the Planning Board to build at a relocated site to the south and away from the wetland. It was clarified that the proposed use is indeed dependent upon exposure to the ocean.

Disposal of Invasive Plant Material:

A letter outlining the procedure for disposal of vegetative matter in general, and invasive species in particular, at the Recycling Center was sent from Manager, Chuck Perow. All invasive species to be securely bagged and deposited in a blue bin at the transfer station (weigh and pay) to be removed and safely dealt with (by burning) by Pine Tree Company.

Invasive Plant Management:

HCC will work with the Harpswell Garden Club and Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) to formulate a program for the public that will include identification, management and eradication of specified invasive plants, as well as an incentive to replant with native shrubby species.

Article for the Anchor:

A. Perry's article "*Planning a Coastal Garden*" will appear in the April edition of the Anchor.

Symposium:

"Beyond Pesticides" is holding a symposium on April 15 and 16 at USM in Portland. M. Nahf will participate in a one-hour workshop panel to discuss the steps Harpsell took in its *Outdoor Pesticide and Fertilizer Control Ordinance*.

Mill Pond Culvert at High Head:

The High Head Road Association. is considering a replacement of a culvert under the entrance of the High Head Road. It is undersized and restricts tidal flow. M. Craig from

CBEP has put out test meters and given the group technical information that will enable them to apply for a state grant that will help defray the cost.

Road Erosion:

A section of First Street is losing its retaining “tire wall” to erosion. The loose tires are now sunk into the intertidal area. Two abutting neighbors will be removing and carting them to the recycling center that will accept the tires without charge as part of coastal cleanup.

Updates:

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Community (CBEP) Grant Application:

Discussion and comments on the grant application.

- Beef up the overall thrust of why we are doing it.
- Reduce the PDF content to two pages (smaller print.)
- Bring those 600+ residents in neighborhoods identified in the SLR report together to notify them about problems and solutions as they arise.
- In recognizing that over 50% of roads in Harpswell are privately maintained, urge owners to form official road associations so that they can benefit from grant money in the future. Provide information and know how.
- Begin to record all existing road associations.

To do:

- M. Nahf and M. Eyerman will meet to firm up the application.
- Short term upgrades need to be identified early to forestall larger problems later.
- Define what in-kind services HHLT can provide in the future. M. Nahf will follow through.
- M. Eyerman will meet with the Selectmen 3/17 to seek approval to submit the grant application. Deadline is 3/28/2016.

Little Snow Island:

D. Strachan reported that the Quahog Bay Conservancy group is seeking a \$350 - \$500 grant to have signs made to explain the proper procedure for removal of animal and human waste on Little Snow Island in Quahog Bay (refer to 3/2/16 minutes.)

Motion: HCC to write a letter of support for the signage grant. M. Nahf will make contact with the group.

Voted: Unanimously agreed.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Ordinance:

- Prompted by arborist Jeff Gillis who seeks waivers for Brown Tail moth and Winter moth tree injections within the shoreline zone to save some mature oaks, M. Nahf distributed final copies of Section 7 of the ordinance relating to Waivers. Four conditions outlined in the waiver are to be met before approval is given.
- The pesticide waiver interim application form was worked on by M. Nahf and M. Eyerman to include the information agreed upon by members. These forms were sent to J. Gillis to fill out for future approval.

Since 40 waivers were requested, a spread sheet was recommended to facilitate the waiver procedure. It itemizes the following: Name of customer, location, plant types, quantity treated, reason for request, target pest/disease, pesticide name and application method.

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- It was suggested to hold a public waiver meeting at the Town Hall, with J. Gillis presenting, within a week's time. Public notice must be made at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. The agenda will be restricted to the waiver applications.

Skillins Open House:

An invitation to display information on Harpswell's new pesticide ordinance will take place at Skillins the weekend of 4/1/16. Copies of the ordinance, explanatory pamphlets and other affiliated material like *Gardening Without Pests* will be assembled, displayed and manned by HCC members.

Adjourned: 4:55 PM.

Meetings: 4/6 and 4/20 at 3:00 PM. Hearing for waivers to be decided.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow.