

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
April 20, 2016

Opened Meeting: 3:05 PM.

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

Approval of 4/6 Minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Announcements:

Report From “Beyond Pesticides” Conference

M. Nahf participated in a panel workshop April 16-17 and outlined the process the Commission underwent in order to change Harpswell’s new pesticide ordinance. Mary Cerullo “Friends of Casco Bay” heralded Harpswell for a job well done. M. Nahf contacted the Ogunquit Conservation Commission to see how they handled waivers their first year with their new ordinance, and found out they received only one request to spray a large section of knotweed along the shore. With instruction they were able to redirect the control method. This seemed surprising since only pesticides approved by MOFDA are permitted. Several conjectures were voiced.

Updates:

Goals and Objectives for 2016:

The Mission Statement was presented to the Commission by M. Nahf for discussion. The following point were made.

- Clarification of the terms used: “Goals” means **what** and “Objectives” means **how**,
- Two Goals were added to the nine listed. “Strive to Reduce the Use of Pesticides,” #3, was subtracted from Objectives and added to Goals. “Sea Level Rise” (SLR) was also added. (The SLR sub-committee will define the objectives by the next meeting.)
- Objectives: Of the 5 listed, add “Review and Develop a Process/Schedule for Collaborating with the Planning Board” when building environmental concerns arise.
- Add the new mandatory role of acting as a review board to assess waivers in the “Note” section of the mission statement, together with the task of furnishing new residents with a copy of *A Resident’s Guide to Conserving Casco Bay*.
- Add a study of the consequences of implementing the new pesticide ordinance to the list of “Objectives.”

M. Nahf will incorporate the changes and send to members for final review at the May meeting.

Planning Board Workshop Report 4/6:

Discussion on the role of the Commission in reviewing environmental issues relating to development proposals that appear before the PB.

- The need to assess review criteria, procedures, schedules, site plan visits and PB meetings are to be addressed. How they dovetail with the existing process has yet to be worked out. As it presently stands, Planning Assistant Diane Plourd will forward PB requests to the HCC Chair.
- Concern that under existing ordinances there is no PB review of requests to build single housing and, therefore, no opportunity for proactive intervention by HCC.
- B. Taylor notes that M. Eyerman has expressed concern about the paucity of restrictions controlling the building of single homes, especially regarding the effects of site erosion and water runoff. (Plans are reviewed by the CE Officer only.)

Resilience Planning for Sea Level Rise:

- A workshop on forming statutory road associations is planned for either July or August 2016. Refer to 4/6 minutes for details.
- The Selectmen's Non-Resident Tax Payers' Meeting is the beginning of July. Posters regarding private road awareness relating to SLR will be on display.
- B. Taylor requested M. Nahf facilitate the names and addresses of those households adjacent to the at risk areas by defining the process for overlaying the tax maps over Google Earth. M. Nahf will follow through.

Promoting the New Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance:

Outreach Strategies were discussed and the following points were made:

- Judith Stanton, from the Mitchell Field garden group, has a May article in the Anchor on cover crops, green manure, that will include reference to the new pesticide ordinance. This will be followed by an article "Nature in the Backyard" listing the ecology of birds and insects beneficial to nature, to be written by Anne Perry for June.
- W. Batson and M. Nahf are working on a package to include a cover letter to inform landscapers and arborists of the new ordinance, waiver request forms and how to comply, and the procedure required to apply for a state pesticide applicator license. M. Nahf has held several informal discussions with some landscapers.
- Jay McCreight, our State Rep., passed on the Press Herald's reporting of the South Portland initiative for pesticide control. This brought up the importance of writing press releases for broad coverage on Harpswell's steps in pesticide control. K. Eiane asked the Commission to write a 400 to 450 worded article for the Town Bulletin. It was decided to write the article to include the ordinance and questions to ask your lawn care person relating to procedures.
- The list of "what to use instead" for dissemination to residents is growing and ongoing and will be added to the web page when assembled.

Adjourned: 4:30 PM.

Meetings: 5/4, 5/18 at 3:00 PM.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow.