

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 4, 2016**

Opened Meeting: 3:10 PM.

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

Approval of 4/20 Minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Announcements:

Quahog Bay Conservation:

- D. Strachan noted that Dave Hunter caught 10,000 lbs of green crabs in 2014 and 3,000 lbs. in 2015.
- Call for reprinting the “Pump Out” brochure to be handed out to boaters at Great Island Boatyard, Dolphin Marina, Holbrook’s Wharf and D. Hunter for onsite distribution. Brief discussion over jurisdiction for future printings. Alternatives will be sought next year. M. Nahf will provide the PDF files for printing purposes.
- New signs to be installed at the state owned Little Snow Island will warn boaters about how best to deal with animal/human waste to avoid polluting the area.

Planning Board Workshop:

The workshop will discuss wetlands and the different definitions used when computing usable lot size in the shoreland zoning basic land use and subdivision ordinances. M. Eyerman noted that the deduction for wetlands was more restrictive in the shoreland zone than the interior. Consistency in the wetland size and deducting the area from buildable lot requirements as is currently the case for the shoreline zone, was deemed fairer to all and easier to implement. No consensus was reached regarding minimum size of a wetland. Commission members agreed to support M. Eyerman’s recommendation to aim for consistency, and opted to support the more stringent shore land zoning requirement and apply it to all three locations.

Meeting Times:

The next three HCC meetings will start at 1:30 PM instead of the usual 3:00 PM. to accommodate members who have signed up to attend HHLT’s “Habitat” workshop series.

Brown Tail Moth Infestations:

M. Nahf contacted Charlene Donahue, Forest Entomologist, Dept. of Agriculture and Conservation, to get information regarding the change on the State map that showed Harpswell being impacted on the western shore of the southern end of the neck with winter moth as showing the entire Town in red. C. Donahue said the map represented a broad brush level and did not represent new infestations. C. Donahue agreed to change Harpswell from red alert, as indicated on a map, to orange. She also stated that control measures are a balancing act between the welfare of lobsters and invasive species and she is always seeking new solutions to add to the tool box that are more friendly to lobsters.

They are studying the use of Bt and will let us know the outcome.

Updates

Goals and Objectives for 2015-16. Mission Statement:

M. Nahf incorporated the changes discussed at the 4/ 20 meeting. Further changes were discussed and agreed upon... Add “and town officials” to Objective 1, remove “waivers” from Goals and add to Objectives, remove action from Objective 2 and place under Objective 1 and incorporate Objective 4 as an action under the umbrella of Objective 1.

Motion: To request acceptance of the above changes.

Voted: Unanimous approval to accept the discussed changes.

Moody Wharf:

W. Batson informed the Commission that neighbors affected by a proposed wharf were informed of a specified site visit by the Harpswell’s CEO. However, concerns voiced about the wharf proposal that includes an oversized structure to house the tanks, remain unanswered.

Resilience Planning for Sea Level Rise (SLR):

- W. Batson’s subcommittee met with M. Nahf last week to determine goals for SLR. She will redraft the discussed changes to Goals and submit before the next meeting.
- The workshop on forming Statutory Road Associations (refer to 4/6 minutes for details) will take place at 6PM, August 24 at the Town Hall. It was decided that the workshop should follow a workshop on Road Engineering. The date (June/July slot) and name of a road engineer is yet to be determined. M. Nahf will pursue the possibilities via Cumberland County Water Conservation District resources.
- HCC will collaborate with HHLT on organizing the workshops, and the cost of postage will be covered by the Town.

Beyond the Pesticide Ordinance:

- Ways to connect with residents on “what to use instead” is ongoing.
- M. Nahf will film the composting workshop slated for 5/21 at Mitchell Field for airing later and, in addition, it will be added to the Commission’s gardening webpage.
- The information letter on the new ordinance addressed to landscapers needs to include fertilizers and be shortened to one page.
- The article on questions to ask the lawn care landscaper is limited to 450 words for the Harpswell Bulletin. M. Nahf is working on it.
- A database for tracking waiver requests will be in the form of a spread sheet. S. Vachon will design the format.

Review of Development Permits: Refer to 4/20 minutes “Planning Board Workshop.”

To do:

- Define the overview process and what we are looking to accomplish.
- Discuss selection review criteria.

Adjourned: 5:08 PM.

Meetings: 5/18, 6/1, 6/15 at 1:30 PM.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow.

