

**Harpswell Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**July 20, 2016**

**Opened Meeting:** 3:15 PM.

**Roll Call:** Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Ann Nemrow, Burr Taylor, Anne Perry, Mark Eyerman, Planner, Matt Craig, speaker for Casco Bay Estuary Project (CBEP), Mel Christenson and Phelan Gallagher, teachers from the Harpswell Coastal Academy (HCA) Absent: Sue Vachon, Paul Ciesielski, Wendy Batson.

**Approval of 6/15 & 6/29 Minutes:** Both minutes were approved unanimously, as presented.

**Announcements:**

**Cedar Beach:**

M. Nahf announced that the Supreme Court in Maine reversed the Lower Court findings that permitted public access to the beach. It is uncertain whether the Friends of Cedar Beach/Cedar Island will appeal the decision. However, the owner of the road will permit access to the beach for this season and, thereafter, decisions will be determined on a per annum basis.

**Mitchell Field's "Tail Gate and Recreate" Event, July 16:**

M. Nahf, Anne Perry, Sue Vachon and Jeremy Lynch presented handouts, stickers and envelopes of milk weed seeds on bee and butterfly pollinators. They included a hands-on bean bag game, and painting in pictures of Monarchs.

**Presentation:**

**"Salt Marshes and Stream Crossings" by Matt Craig:**

M. Craig (CBEP) described a number of future projects at locations around Harpswell. They included locations of tidal restrictions and fish barriers, and areas that are upgraded but will require voluntary help monitoring vegetation changes as stream crossings change their salinity content. Teachers P. Galagher and Mel Christenson (HCA) attended the presentation for the purpose of selecting favorable projects for students' curricular for the 2016/2017 academic year.

Lists of stream crossings that exist as tidal restrictions and fish barriers and lend themselves to help are...

**Two freshwater marshes** on Wallace Shore Rd. and Shore Rd. require enlarged culverts.

**An impounded 10 acre freshwater wetland**, once used for ice making, and located next to the ocean on Dingley Island, needs permanent tidal access for fish.

**In 2014, Long Marsh** replaced an undersized and perched culvert with a box culvert that now facilitates tidal access and already shows vegetative changes that need to be monitored.

**Dan's Ice Pond**, a 32 acre impounded sub-tidal wetland, requires a study to solve the problem of SLR possibly overtopping the rock dam.

**Basin Cove / Curtis Cove**, an impounded freshwater stream, has limited tidal exchange and needs a larger culvert.

**Long Pt. Rd / Tuttle Drive**, located to the S.E. of Dan's Pond, is a site for future salt water intrusion from the ocean, and requires research.

**Otter Brook**, a 3+ acre fresh water stream and pond, is impounded by a rock dam where the stream meets Harpswell Cove. Removal would permit tidal action. (Reed Coles has reservations about removal of the dam.)

**High Head Rd. / Mill Cove** is the site of an historical tide mill that affects a 9+ acre freshwater wetland. Removal of the dam and placement of a culvert, scheduled for fall 2016, will facilitate tidal action and possibly attract a smelt run. All vegetation changes need to be monitored.

**Little Pond / Bethel Point** is an 8 acre drowned tidal wetland where the earthen dam has been overtopped by tides, causing erosion problems. Culvert replacement would provide tidal access to Bethel Point.

**HCC, at the request of M. Craig, pledged to aid CBEP** in facilitating communications and permissions between the agency and owners of private lands, similar to the service provided at the Wallace Shore Rd. with the installation of a bridge and large culvert.

#### **Discussion of Student Needs with M. Christenson and P. Gallagher.**

Students will use GIS mapping methods, collect data and analyze the results. They will provide the "legwork" and interface their research with CBEP and HCC.

Other projects, apart from those listed above, include camera shots of the effects of king tides on key locations where the ocean spills over the roads, monitor invasive species on public lands, and document the presence of alewives on Dan's Pond.

HCC will collaborate with HCA in gathering information on the impact of high tides on selected Harpswell roads in time for curricular decisions that need to be specified before the end of the month.

M. Nahf and D. Strachan will summarize a list of possible projects that M. Craig identified as "cool places" for research, as well as a list of resources on SLR and send to HCA.

**Adjourned:** 5:10 PM.

**Meetings:** 9/07 and 9/21 at 3:00 PM.

Workshop on formation of road associations, August 24 at HHLT.

**Scribe:** Ann Nemrow