

Town Lands Committee
Town of Harpswell, Maine
Minutes of March 18, 2024

Present: Ken Oehmig, Hope Hilton, David Hackett, Geoff Feiss, Jane Smith, Tom Carr, Ned Perry

Guests: Paul Plummer, Jane Covey, Don Miskill, David Znamierowski

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes: February 19, 2024 approved without alterations

Storm Damage Report: Paul Plummer has met and will continue to meet with Town's insurance adjusters and with contractors with respect to estimates on replacing the Town Dock. FEMA will be setting up a temporary office in Harpswell, likely for about four weeks. Search underway for space.

Don Miskill reports that a small landslide occurred on the south beach at Mitchell Field and uprooted trees will need to be cleared so they do not become navigation hazards. Discussions on-going with the state due to concerns as to state scraping back unspent funds this year; a problem due to expected delays as a consequence of the heavy demand on qualified contractors statewide as a result of storm damage this winter.

Stewardship Reports: John Loyd has shared photos of Graveyard Point Landing showing extensive damage to the landing that will need remediation for the land to be functional. He also reports no damage to Potts Point Landing and ramp. Tom Carr reports damage to two culverts on the accessible portion of the Cliff Trail that will likely require replacement of existing culverts with larger diameter ones. Geoff Feiss reports no damage at Holbrook Landing, Bethel Point Landing, Hildreth Landing. Significant gravel overwash on the road at Garrison Point Landing. Giant's Stairs continues to have suffered extensive damage to the trail and will require major work to return it to pre-storm condition.

Ongoing Business: Updates and Comments were given on the following:

- Notice has yet to go to abutters at Devil's Back West who have placed a "No Trespassing" sign on town land. Previous notice apparently went to an old address.
- Discussions on a Bailey Island Toilet are still being pursued with HHLT.
- The Gift Policy draft shared with the committee, written by Hope Hilton and Ken Oehmig, was discussed. The committee was apprised of a set of documents that town staff share with those who inquire about making gifts as well as with a "check-off" form that Ned Perry shared that has been used in the past. Don Miskill noted that the Mitchell Field Committee has its own policies and that this will soon be memorialized in a new Mitchell Field Policy Manual that is nearing completion. The committee decided to gather all these documents and drafts, to align them, and to make a future recommendation to the Select Board as to a single Town policy and procedure to be followed and posted on the Town website.

- Jane Covey reported that the Select Board at its March 14 meeting had a discussion with staff from the State Bureau of Parks and Lands with respect to moving forward the discussions of future management of the Clark Cove parcel. The state will conduct a Nesting Bird Inventory this spring and seek input from State DEP to assess impacts of future use. Discussions will proceed on the basis of this input as to the feasibility of the Town taking over management of this property for the benefit of the residents of the Town.
- No response as of yet to letters to Potts Point abutters

New Business:

- Future work projects: Bog bridging at Devil's Back East and on the Cliff Trail, clear winter plow debris at Tide Mill Landing
- David Hackett to report on history of Woods Point Landing at the April meeting as this lease is coming up for renewal
- Mitchell Field Committee has paint that can be used to spruce up picnic tables at Mackerel Cove and Graveyard Point.

Work Day: Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m., Devil's Back East.

Next meeting: **Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5 p.m. at Town Office**

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.