



TOWN OF HARPSWELL
HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 2, 2023 2:30 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

The meeting opened at 2:32 PM.

- Present: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Wendy Batson, Tony Barrett, Nancy West, Jenny Zagariello, via phone (non-voting), Sel. Jane Covey
Absent: Planner, Mark Eyerman,
- The minutes of 07/05 were unanimously approved.
- TV call in for Comp Plan update: Our topic Natural Resource.
(The Natural Resources Chapter Draft was circulated in advance of the meeting.)

The Comprehensive Plan Committee is organizing a Q/A session for the general public on Monday, August 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The format will be a TV program with call-in for questions. The Committee will meet on Thursday, Aug 3rd to prepare for the meeting so various committee representatives are prepared to serve as experts in answering the public's queries. Each town committee is also being asked to prepare some prompt questions to call in to get the ball rolling.

HCC members raised a number of points about the Natural Resources chapter. The references to the 2009 Open Space plan in the Scenic Resources section are misplaced as most of the material included there does not belong under Scenic Resources. HCC did not do a thorough review of scenic resources in 2009 and that point should be included in the Scenic Resources section.

Other criticisms included were a) the section in its entirety lacked depth; b) did not address natural resource outstanding issues; c) lacked an analysis of results from 2009 and, most critically, d) did not articulate a challenging goal(s) or a rallying cry for future action under the new plan. With these criticisms in mind, the committee drafted the following questions.

1. Overall use of the Focus areas: What's happened since the last comprehensive plan was completed in 2009? This chapter summarizes conditions as of 2009 with no update as to what's happened since. Data has been supplied to the committee which could be used to update this section – why isn't it included?
2. What resulted from the last comprehensive plan overall? What outcomes did the last comp plan produce and how were they achieved? What town bodies led the processes?
3. The section on Undeveloped Habitat Blocks includes material on improved road-stream crossings and connectivity for wildlife. We are unaware of relevant road-stream crossings in Harpswell as we have almost no streams. Why is "Stream Smart" relevant for Harpswell? It would also be helpful

if this section provided a total number of acres or percentage of town lands included under the heading undeveloped habitat blocks.

4. A comparison was made comparing us to neighboring and similar communities. More specificity would be interesting and useful for future reference rather than the generic mentions now used in the chapter.
5. Could the committee define the differences between preserved versus conserved lands? What do we mean when we use the term “conserve?” The term “preserves”? What lands fall under which definition? What’s permanent? What’s situational? Town-owned land may be protected from development, but not in perpetuity. Do we use a universal definition in line with the states?
6. In late 2022, 190 nations, including the U.S.A., agreed to the Kunming-Montreal Diversity framework under which nearly every country in the world committed to protect 30% of their land, oceans, and inland waterways by 2030. Currently, 21% of Maine’s land is conserved and the state has set a goal of conserving 30% by 2030. Harpswell should follow the country and state aspirations by committing to conserve 30% of our town’s lands by 2030. A worthy goal: as of 2009, only 16% of Harpswell’s lands were conserved.

Upon completion of the initial review of the draft chapters, the Comprehensive Plan Committee will next present items from each chapter in a series of public meetings throughout the fall to establish goals.

- Fall Ocean Cleanup Sept. 23rd: [Update by Tony
Tony Barrett updated the committee on plans for the fall ocean cleanup. Members reviewed the draft handout on Harpswell Coastal Clean-Up Day, which will be used to draft an article for the Anchor and for leaflets/posters to advertise the event. Graphics are needed, preferably of citizens picking up marine trash. Tony reached out to Quahog Conservancy to see if they would like to be involved but received no response.
Follow Up: Tony will send the handout to HHLT to post on its website and write an article for the Anchor. Deirdre will post the handout at Holbrooks.
- Update on PFAS bulletin: This item was tabled until HCC’s September meeting. Tony Barrett will resend material for review.
- Marine Resources and polystyrene: Marine Resources wants to regulate disintegrating polystyrene in floats and in construction materials when cut and used near water. The material is highly toxic. When sawing this material, dust is created that can settle in water. They have also expressed concerns about poly being used in the construction of new floats. Marine Resources would like to create an ordinance stating that all new floats must include enclosed float devices. Research also needs to be done on how to capture dust from construction sites near water and when building floats themselves. HCC can help by researching other ordinances that may be relevant.

Follow Up: Mary Nahf will check with contractor David Brooks for suggestions.

- WaterWise update:
The OBYC presentation on August 10th is not open to the general public; it's for members only. On Cundys Harbor Day, August 5th, HCC members will be present on the wharf with materials from 11:00 am on.
- Website: Jenny Zagariello will review updates on HCC's portion of the town website in September when she's back in town. Jenny, Peter, and Mary Ann are updating our entries, ensuring that they conform to the town's recently updated site.
- New Business: None.

Adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Note Taker: Wendy Batson

Upcoming meetings, 9/13, 10/4 and 10/18

Parking Lot:

- Some interesting reading and watching:
- [resources](#) from Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association Low-Impact Forestry (LIF) program with focus on the ecosystem of a forest.
- [i-Tree](#) will show you effects of planting or removing a single tree the other National EPA Soils Calculator - <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/national-stormwater-calculator>
- <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/explore/water/facts/well.htm>
- **P. Slovinsky Jan 2023 explanation of storm erosion on bluffs and wind direction and hard armoring:** <https://www.themainemonitor.org/here-are-some-resources-to-learn-more-about-coastal-erosion-in-maine/>
- P. Slovinsky Feb. 2021 Maine Coastal Property Owner’s Guide to Eros., Flood. & Other hazards. https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1605&context=mgs_publications
- MOFGA webinar regarding Radical Forestry Management https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPorH1i__Uw#t=0m0s
- Edgewood Nurseries Lecture re: Food forest gardening; discusses ability to grow under the canopy of trees if understand the root structure. (Possible talk w/Aaron. edgewoodlandscapes@gmail.com 4 Cruston Way, Falmouth, Maine

Minute Taking Info

Minute Takers 2023

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|--------|---------|
| March | Deirdre |
| March | Tony |
| April | Jenny |
| April | Nancy |
| May | Wendy |
| May | Deirdre |
| June | Tony |
| June | Jenny |
| July | Nancy |
| August | Wendy |

Minute Taker Hints

Can use the agenda as template, just substitute Minutes for Agenda

Record attendance, opening and closing time

Record votes - if vote split show the #Yea and nay

Record action items and responsibility

Where possible summarize pertinent discussion

Sign minutes, send draft to members for review; update w edits and resend.

Once minutes approved mark APPROVED and send to: dperry@town.harpswell.me.us mmcintire@town.harpswell.me.us