



**TOWN OF HARPSWELL**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 3:00 PM

Chair Mary Ann Nahf opened the meeting at 3:02PM

Attendance: D. Strachan, W. Batson, P. Ciesielski, M. Nahf, J. Zagariello, Samantha Wittaker, members of the public, Nancy West, B Taylor

1. The minutes for the September 2, 2020 meeting were approved.
2. Welcome to new member Samantha Wittaker
3. Announcements:

Conservation Commission will ask Select Board for oversight of the Climate Resilience Task Force (CRT) as it acts on the recommendations from the Climate Resilience Task Force Strategic Plan

CRT will meet on September 23 at 5:00. Zoom invite and agenda will be sent next week. Nancy West is working on website updates to incorporate the results of the CRTaskforce. The Commission will review, prior to incorporating; with a target of updating by the new year.

Maine Calling on Maine Public, September 15 show is devoted to SLR: *Sea-Level Rise: How Bad Will It Get, How Are Maine Communities Preparing & What Can Individuals Do?* <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381443550/maine-calling>

Mary Ann attended a discussion of the Recommended Strategies From the [Coastal and Marine Working Group and the Community Resilience Working Group of the Maine Climate Council](#). It was to find out how the local communities are being affected. Paul Plummer was there to talk about affects to our town regarding marine resources. State Senator Eloise Vitelli and State Representative Jay McCreight discussed how the coastal and Marine Group is folding community resilience into sustainable Maine resources in the Climate Action Plan. For more information see [Maine Climate Council](#)

Update on PFAS in Harpswell- Paul C. as Harpswell's representative to the Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE) is sampling mussels from series of locations to detect PFAS gradient in Harpswell Sound. While sampling, Paul noticed the grass flats have receded.

4. Picture Post – Update on Aneccdata, report on replacement pieces:

Background: At our last meeting we discussed data uploaded by stewards and how it is organized. Wanted to add wind direction; tide height; and find out if possible to add more photos. Sue, Mary Ann and Jenny met with Cait, Aneccdata's co-founder and tech guru. Very productive meeting. Based on that conversation, asked her about categories and info wanted. Some changes made while we were talking to her.

Cait connected us to telemetry link to closest NOAA data buoy. That data will now be automatically captured when we enter observations. Kate also added options for tide height & wind direction and set up so photo upload so that stewards have to upload in sequence, which will make it easier to analyze data. She created a separate section for other photos and a place to write notes about them, etc.

We may need to correct NOAA data so as to capture Harpswell as NOAA data coming from Portland Will have to play with this. Also need to require that stewards enter tide level in feet. NOAA data will give tide level at moment took picture but will not give us expected tide. We can ask stewards to enter via info provided by Burr.

Wind direction: realized that if do not enter data, it automatically entered as breezy. That has been corrected and stewards will now have to choose from drop down menu.

Cait/Anecdata have some forward thinking plans that may include ways view a photo set and insert pics to observe change over time. Developing Software that will provide actual measurements within Anecdata on the photos uploaded. Anecdata is creating the tools we can use, but will not analyze the data we enter; HCC will have to do the analysis.

Mary Ann: HCC has to figure out what we want. Why are we doing it? Data collected on the bridge at Bethel Point has already proved useful showing erosion around the guide rail mountings. NOAA data will show water temperature, which will also be useful.

Nancy: For all locations, we need a fixed point of reference that would show how predicted tide plays out in actuality at that station. So many different factors in how lunar tide and storm tide affects water in each specific cove. Need reference point at each point. Only way to measure is fixed measurable spot to make comparisons over time.

Mary Ann: We could pick a point at each location and mark so as to obtain actual measurements. And a way to do this safely!

Conclusion Ask stewards to visit their post(s) to investigate where/how we might make permanent measure marks easily viewable and captured in a photo. (Too often measuring stick marks are not visible in photos.) Also suggested we reach to Bowdoin profs for suggestions.

On replacement of deteriorating platforms: Mary Ann has cut new boards and will coat with a penetrating sealer. Once completed, she'll let stewards know to pick them up at the Transfer Station.

More flyers are ready, and Mary Ann will include with new platforms for steward pickup. Put out just a few for the winter; more next spring.

Plan a zoom meeting of all stewards to talk about new updates to Anecdata

5. Budget for 2021 (attached) : Review 2020 Budget and update for 2021

During review and discussion of the Goals of the 2021 HCC Budget, Budget will reflect Goals of Conservation Commission including work of Climate Resiliency Task Force (CRT), environmental protections related to site erosion and comparison rules regarding single lots and subdivisions, the guidelines /planning for infrastructure changes workshop for Stewards and public on Picture Post Project and workshop on pesticides. It was moved and seconded to accept the draft budget as discussed and not to exceed \$4,360. Please review attached 2021 budget draft. Comments welcome.

Next meeting: Cull addresses and send out *Resident Guide* to people who have moved here since guide was last mailed.

**Adjourn at 4:36**

**Upcoming meetings:** October 21 and November 4, 2020

**Scribes:** Wendy Batson and Jenny Zagariello