



TOWN OF HARPSWELL

HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

Open Meeting at 4:37

- Note Taker Today: Nancy
- Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Wendy Batson, Jamie Hark, Deirdre Strachan, Nancy West, Anne Caldwell, and Abby Roche, Jenny Zagariello (via Facebook messenger), Planner, Matt James, Sel. Jane Covey
Absent: Tony Barrett, Deirdre Strachan

Matt James, new planner introduced himself as someone who had studied archeology, anthropology, and climate science and then went into planning. He has done code enforcement and part-time planning in Bowdoinham. Matt and Mark will overlap for a few months.

- Approval of minutes: Correct "Agenda" to "Minutes". Will defer approval to next meeting.
- Announcements:
Saturday at the Cundy's Harbor Blindfold Dinghy and Lobster Crate races, HCC had a chance to display Jamies's poster publicizing the September 11th WaterWise talk. Thank you Jaimie for your creative work! For the next iteration, Jamie has a revised design that he will format for a card, four or six to a page to be posted at the usual spots.

- "Understanding Harpswell's Water Supply" Series:
 - The program is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 11th 6 pm at the Harpswell Community School. Mary Ann is arranging with staff for public dissemination though a hybrid meeting or webinar.
 - Wendy has written an article for the Bulletin. [Published.]
 - Wendy's article for the Anchor about the series – due 8/15. Wendy will review article again and add a paragraph. [Published p. 32.] Take out an ad? Cost is not known. [Published p. 20 in color.]
 - Jessica Meeks, State Hydrogeologist will speak. Jennie, Nancy, Abby, and Mary Ann talked with her spoke with her July 24th about her plans for the presentation. She mentioned two points of focus: Fractured rock aquifers and salt water intrusion. Mary Ann asked her to make the salt water intrusion topic subsidiary. Jessica will leave 25 minutes for questions.

Jessica also spoke of a Maine Geological Survey study in Southport, Westport, and Allen Island to monitor salinity in brackish wells with data transmitted via telemetry. Could HW citizens participate? Could seek volunteers. Wendy: Let Holbrook's know; they would be a good candidate. FEMA did a study on salt water intrusion 5 - 6 years ago, on Great Island near Long

Marsh. Matt mentioned that the ocean and road runoff are both sources of salt. For the latter, HCC did a study in 2002 about salt runoff from roads. Abby noted later that Cheabeague and Long Island are leading on testing for salinity; they offer test kits for salinity.

- Anne has found a sketch of salt water intrusion from Gerber and Rand for Jaimie to make “jumpy” that might be useful for people to understand. Jaimie: “Send it to me...”
- Fractured Rock Poster 2.0 and publicizing - Posters to put up in town, TV, Town website?
- Refreshments? Yes. Nancy will bake cookies, Abby muffins, Wendy banana bread. We’ll have a veritable “Fractured Bakeoff”!
- For this September 11th meeting, Ann was asked to pick maps from the Ransome study in large format. She has a list of maps and what they depict. Will send the list out. Mary Ann will send a list of figures and page numbers. We can pick favorites for printing for the meeting.
- For the next WaterWise presentation in October or November, set the date before Sept. 11. Revamp our old talk and slides. Water Witch talk October 30th? If at Town Office, will do a hybrid. Plan for doing it there. Will cut down the science part. Focus on LID?
- Discussed a possible collaboration with HHLT on Coastal Erosion/soft armoring with Peter Slovinsky in the winter. The idea arose because erosion is an issue to investigate at two HHLT properties. Could we collaborate? HHLT has a planning meeting for programs later this month. Wendy suggested the Schiller Center at Bowdoin Coastal Center as a good place for this talk. Abby mentioned a toolkit about how to talk with private landowners about soft solutions to erosion.
- Jamie brought up a practical workshop on coastal erosion and permitting: non-engineering approaches to prevent erosion. Jamie and his work colleagues would conduct it and include case studies.
- Other possible talks could be on 1) trees. 2) Invasive Plants with HiPP. Long Island has had a talk about invasive plants. Abby will send information about the talk there.
- What trees and shrubs should one choose to plant? What will be suitable with respect to climate change? What trees did well over the last winter? Given that aspens grow first and fast, what would succeed them over time? What would be alive and thriving in 50 years? Shrubby plants hold the ground in place. Collaborative effort between HHLT, Schiller Center, Garden Club, HCC?
- How to get the word out about these talks: 1. The Anchor. 2. Posters around town. Card-sized and 11 x 17. 3. Harpswell TV. 5. Publicize with a news blast on the town website.
- Jane’s comments were that the series would be fabulous. Think about a mechanism for repeat showings. At libraries? At Town Hall? Consider how to make these available in an ongoing, repetitive process. How do people know about this? And how to make available not on a computer? MAN will be talking on Resiliency Committee—one option for publicity is to do a news blast on the town website.

Adjourn. 5:40

Upcoming meeting dates: 9/4, 9/18