



# TOWN OF HARPSWELL

HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

OCTOBER 4, 2023

## MINUTES

APPROVED 10/18/23

Open Meeting: 2:33 PM

- In attendance: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Tony Barrett & Nancy West  
Absent: Jenny Zagariello & Wendy Batson
- Minutes of 09/10: Approved subject to two amendments: : Nancy and Mary Ann did the Waterwise presentation not just Nancy alone. Change "Agenda" to "Minutes" in the title.
- Announcements: : Nancy congratulates Mary Ann, Deirdre & Mark for excellent grant writing upon learning that the Town was awarded a GOPIF grants for engineering studies on two roads.  
Comp Plan: Three Jars survey method found working waterfront & housing are top two concerns.  
Drinking Water is #3. People are afraid that we are losing the Town's identity.
- Fall Ocean Cleanup Sept. 23rd: Update.: Successful cleanup for both events on the 9th and 23rd

Sept. 9th : HHLT & Friends of Casco Bay

**items collected:** 1,110

**Number one item collected:** 377 plastic/foam pieces

**Total approximate weight:** 912 lbs

**# of volunteers who participated:** 9

Sept. 23rd : HCC, Harbormaster & MRC

**Number one item collected:** plastic/foam pieces.

**Total approximate weight:** 3,740 lbs.

**# of volunteers who participated:** 60+/-

The three drop off locations seemed to work well. We received a lot of good feedback from the public and participants. Many would like to see this become a yearly event.



- WaterWise update and website: next presentation is at 7:00 PM Wednesday, November 8 at the Grange hosted by the Land Trust Mary Ann will send an advertising blurb for the Land Trust to use.
- Review of ongoing projects & budget for 2024 After some procrastination, the assembled members went through the budget line-by-line. Discussion ensued and some additions and some changes were made. 15 years ago, 4 wetlands were recommended for Natural Resource Protection but were rejected. What is the status of these properties today? A revised draft will be prepared by Mary Ann and then distributed. Deirdre will investigate wetland studies. Nancy and Mary Ann will investigate stream/water crossings. Matt Craig (Casco Bay Estuary Partnership) has done the Coastwise/LID pertinent work. Nancy is preparing a homework list for some of these budget-related tasks. The

budget for 2024 was trimmed by \$400. Burr Taylor's King Tide schedule distribution is useful (Burr contacted to add Tony to distribution list.).

- Erosion armoring: Mary Ann attended a workshop put on by the State about Nature Based solutions (NBS) to Shoreline Erosion. Will disseminate MDEP handout by next meeting.
- New Business Ticks: Selectboard have received citizen comments about ticks — concerns about spraying near their properties and the water. Two main companies (TruGreen, the Mosquito Squad) who spray for ticks in Harpswell, are probably using pesticides responsibly. Discussion ensued and conclusion is to gather more information and perhaps have a meeting (like we did with Jeff Gillis wrt to brown tail moths)

Adjourned at 4:02

Upcoming meetings: 10/18, 11/1 & 11/15

Parking Lot:

- Marine Resources desire to regulate disintegrating polystyrene in floats and in construction materials. being cut and used near the water. Contact a couple of builders, also check for sample ordinances.

- 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 otherNational 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](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](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](mailto:edgewoodlandscapes@gmail.com) 4 Cruston Way, Falmouth, Maine

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### Minute Taking Info

#### Minute Takers 2023

June

July            Nancy

August        Wendy

September    Deirdre

October       Tony

October       Jenny

November     Tony

November     Nancy

December

January

#### 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](mailto:dperry@town.harpswell.me.us) , [mmcintire@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:mmcintire@town.harpswell.me.us) , [tdechaine@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:tdechaine@town.harpswell.me.us)