



**TOWN OF HARPSWELL**  
HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024  
**MINUTES**

Open Meeting: 4:34 PM

- Present: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Wendy Batson, Tony Barrett, Jamie Hark, Nancy West & Jenny Zagariello (via Zoom)  
Guest: Peter Lieberworth  
Ex-officio members: Sel. Jane Covey and Mark Eyerman, Town Planner
- Introduction of New Member: Anne Caldwell: Moved to Harpswell in July 2023 from Clark County, Virginia. Interested in land conservation and environmental issues. HCC members introduced themselves.
- Minutes: 4/17 and 5/1 minutes deferred until next meeting.
- Shoreline Stabilization & LID - Margaret McIntire and Tim Clark joined the May 1 HCC meeting to discuss ways the Town can better process, monitor & evaluate shoreline stabilization projects — especially in response to the January storm surge damage. Permit applications require people to check off that they have read the standards in Section 305 (MDEP Rules) which are not very readable. A handout might be more effective. We discussed the handout prepared by MDEP and it has been suggested that this 6-page handout be used. Could this handout be used for fresh and salt water? It has been used for both marine & freshwater. Have the applicant address LID (Low Impact Development) for the project. Mary Ann will follow up with Codes Office and ask them to review and possibly mark-up the Handout and/or add some text insert.  
The permit applicant could be required to submit 'Before' photos that along with their sketch plans, someone (town volunteer?) could look at 'After' photos (require the Applicant to submit them). Then questionable or deficient results can be tagged for CODES followup. Just a quick 'eyes on' to vet or sort out those projects that need a further look.  
A group of volunteers could do this Monitoring role. Could there be intermediate checks to flag problems so that remediation could be implemented?  
Are HCC members interested in being involved in this process? Consensus Yes.
- "Water Festival"- Further discussion of the general concept of this public event. Three areas to cover: Where do we get our water from, how does it get there & how do we get it out? How do we balance supply with demand? And what can one do to encourage rain to soak into the ground rather than run off. Abby Roche and Gina Synder have expressed interest in these topics. Lee McIlvane may help with well survey. How to reach out to various constituencies? Take the summer to gather materials, garner more experts/hydrologists, put on a specific topic this summer as a first step to a Water Festival

(Harpowell Water Week) in 2025. Perhaps a 'water supply' talk in late August (reason: catch summer residents and it will likely be dry). Work towards a table display for the non-residents meeting in July or at the next Town Meeting that could leverage/advertise an August presentation (State Geologist) or multiple programs that would carry into 2025. Mary Ann will talk to Mark about implementing these next steps. Then check to make sure the Comp Plan committee is on Board. Need to prepare an outline of these steps. A small group to gather at Mary Ann's house for Water Festival planning.

Note: DEFINITION OF AQUIFER: An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing material, consisting of permeable or fractured rock, or of unconsolidated materials. Aquifers vary greatly in their characteristics. [There is not a town-wide permeable aquifer but many isolated, fractured rock aquifers]

- Control of Pesticide use on West Shore Road - HCC should be more engaged in this topic. Mary Ann came upon "Pesticide" signs within the 50-ft no-chemicals zone on lots that are only 50' X 100' in size. Mary Ann called the contractor and they would not release the products applied. Mary Ann will follow up.
- Old Business: Ocean cleanup – Review the results of the John Gilliam road clean-up. Gina Snyder (Recycling Committee member) wrote a letter with shared learnings and suggestions. Bottom line, we need more participation and better marketing for future years. Many volunteers are aging out. Tony talked to QBC (Stacy Werner at Quahog Bay Conservancy) about their clean-up program. Even though they ran a 1/2 page ad in the Anchor, only a handful of community volunteers responded who did cleanup from shore and by boat. They had two corporate groups participate in April and plan for two more in May. QBC collected a trailer and pickup bed full of marine debris.
- New Business: Tony raised Summer Meeting dates again for the summer of 2024 (meet once per month instead of twice). Consensus was to wait until we see how much time/work trouble that we are in the next few weeks.

Notetaker: Tony Barrett

Adjourn: 6:04 PM

**APPROVED 5 JUNE 2024**