



TOWN OF HARPSWELL
HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024, 2024 4:30 PM
MEETING MINUTES

Open Meeting

- Note Taker Today: Jamie

- Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Jenny Zagariello, Jamie Hark, Aida Hark Tony Barrett, Deirdre Strachan, Anne Caldwell, and Wendy Batson, Sel. Jane Covey
- Absent: Nancy West, Planner, Matt James, Abby Roche

- Open meeting at 4:34

- Approval of 11/06 minutes:
 - Tony: The new waterwise toilets that you can get are almost as good as liquid only dual-flush.
 - Mary Ann: Have a Mansfield toilet, can hold the button until you need it, effectively a 2-button system in one.
 - Wendy moves to approve, Tony seconds.

- Announcements:

Report on Storm Response and Preparedness Seminar, 11/20

 - Held in Bath on Centre Street
 - Sponsored by Georgetown with Maine SeaGrant and Island Institute
 - Started by talking about actions in Georgetown and Phippsburg for sea level rise and storm surge.
 - A lot of areas for collaboration in areas of storm response.
 - In general, talked about working waterfront incentives, emergency management and response.
 - Had great food!

- Provided resources for disaster response, municipal resilience work, municipal tools, tools for coastal owners
- Maine Coast Fisherman's Association was there to talk about Working Waterfront tax incentives and resources for fishermen
- Part of the new working waterfront incentives includes putting land aside for access to the water. We've talked in the past about how homeowners can grant access to use the water. The state is adding to its Lands for Maine's future that gives a certain percentage tax break to provide access (depends on zoning of land)
 - Lands for Maine's Future initiative that existed but has been expanded in the last few months.
- Abby: Phippsburg is setting up a working waterfront fund so that if land becomes available they can jump on sales. Should keep in mind for any similar waterfront properties in Harpswell.
- Jane: Could invite them to host a workshop with relevant committees to talk about various aspects with Harpswell stakeholders.

Tony: Bigelow Lab newsletter offering new analytical services for PFAS in Casco Bay following spill in Brunswick.

- WaterWise Webpage

Water Conservation pages review and finalize.

- Jenny and Mary Ann met with the new head of communications (Jim Babarsky, sp?) and will be willing to work with the web design
- Will go up on the website in a page format if possible
- Need to bring this to more people's attention
- An introduction in the Harpswell Anchor would be effective for the end of February (only have a week to make it into the January paper)
- Ann: People have lots of time on their hands inside in winter. Could there be some sort of notice up front on the notices page, or somewhere else, notifying people that this is here?
 - Mary Ann: Yes, Jim will be helpful for making that possible. Could also put it on the town Facebook page once it's out. We could do a special email blast to people who are signed up.

- Private Road Associations outreach

- Resiliency committee is working on a grant (Deirdre has been a large part) for engineering study to build on Town maps to add 1-4' sea level rise to be super imposed on the new maps. New maps are particular to Harpswell since it makes some places

less vulnerable and some places more compared to original maps. In respect to that, they don't cover projected sea level rise.

- Talking with engineers
 - Designed for homeowners and working waterfront understand what to expect.
 - Significant part of ask is to partner with other organizations to get the word out. Holbrooks is partnering with the Town. Maine Coast Fisherman's, Harbor Waterfront, etc. So we can set up programs to go out to the people who are affected and explain how to use the mapping and start thinking strategically about keeping property safe.
 - Grant is through GOPIF. Come out with offerings twice a year. Up to \$75k.
 - Making a big plug about private road owner associations and how we can marry that with work of Conservation Commission and spring programming.
-
- New Business
 - Ann met marine biologist from DC who used to camp on islands (doesn't recall name)
 - Tote Road issue:
 - Mary Ann met with Tim Clarke. A second lot was carved off of the original lot with views of Ice Pond and Gun Cove. Talked about how you would consider low impact development when doing the construction. The road is at the high point and it slumps down on either side. The house is going into a small part of the whole 6-acres of which 2/3rds is unusable due to sheer ledge down to the cove. Would be important as they're building to utilize the natural topography of the land to utilize ponding and proper drainage. Tim has a hard time making people think it's important. Difficulty because when Codes is talking to a homeowner or a builder, they're all very conversant about erosion control and what they have to do. LID is being pushed more now but is difficult for people to wrap their heads around.
 - Talked about redoing application at Codes so there is a checkbox that you have to read the piece of the ordinance pertaining to LID.
 - Everything that has been done was within code, so board of appeals upheld permits.
 - Next Monday December 11th, Gorrill Palmer presentation on plans for Abner Point Road. Portable breakwaters (doing it in Damariscotta currently).

Adjourn

Upcoming meeting dates: 1/15 (hold 12/18 just in case)
