



TOWN OF HARPSWELL

HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025 4:30 PM
MINUTES.

Open Meeting 4:30 PM

- Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Jenny Zagariello, Jamie Hark, Tony Barrett, Deirdre Strachan, Anne Caldwell, Nancy West, and Wendy Batson, Planner, Margaret McIntire, Sel. Jane Covey Absent: Abby Roche
- Guests: HHLT, Emma Balas; HIPP, Linda Wilkins, Becky Gallery, Town Lands & MFC [Outdoor fertilizer and pesticide ordinance 2017](#)
- 1/15 minutes approved by unanimous vote.
- Announcements: February 18, 5:00 at Town Hall, Lowell Cove and Dingley Island Bridge study results. Plan on attending.

Main Event:

Matt Craig, Habitat Program Manager for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership led an information session on Invasive species control with the discussion targeted on management of invasive phragmites with Long Reach Marsh and Appletree Marsh as focus areas

Phragmites Facts:

Perennial grass

Both native and invasive species Tolerates salt water to 22%,

Spreads by rhizomes and seeds

Problems with Phragmites:

Reduce biodiversity, change Sedimentation rates, decrease Habitat and disrupt food webs

2014 - Wetland mitigation to restore hydrology (Long Reach Lane and Wallace Shore Road)

2018 - more small stands - DOT quickly killed

2018 - Monitoring requirements stopped

2022 - Phragmites spreading Long Reach Marsh and Appletree Marsh. Stands becoming established and spreading and both native and invasive acting invasive.

Phragmites Management Techniques

Small stand

- Smothering
- Controlled burn
- Mowing/cutting

Large Stand

- Herbicide (cut drip, foliar application)
- Hydrologic Restoration to get rid of drag Improves drainage

Note: Long Reach has been impacted by agriculture modifications such as embankments, ditches and fords

Further Considerations for Phragmites Management

Grant proposals for ongoing monitoring of stands

Note: Long term monitoring of invasive species should be part of any project

There may still be an opportunity to keep smaller stands in southern part of marsh under control

Phragmites could have benefits in providing stabilization of shoreline. How to manage, not eradicate?

Restoration needs detailed mapping of agricultural modifications

Since use of herbicides not allowing on SLZ, how would phragmites be controlled.

What are options to defeat without herbicides?

Ordinances for herbicides : when is it okay to use herbicide? How to defeat without herbicide?

Adjourn 5:45 PM

Upcoming meeting dates: 2/19 and 3/5

Submitted by Jenny Zagariello

APPROVED Feb 19

Minute Taking Info

Minute Takers 2024

January	Jenny
February	Deirdre
February	Wendy
March	Abby
March	Ann
April	Nancy
April	Jamie
May	Tony
May	Jenny

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: Tina Deschaine,
tdeschaine@town.harpswell.me.us

Parking Lot:

- How we might coordinate Willie C Landscape Design into our WaterWise program.
- Planning Board updates to 2025 ordinances regarding Resource Protection flood zones:
 - How to include the updates to the new velocity areas.
 - How will we think about marsh migration and new vulnerable areas.
- Outdoor Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance
- Control of Pesticide use on West Shore Rd. (Mary Ann to contact applicator)
- Discuss steps re: increasing no pesticide /fertilizer no use zone.
- How else might we consider keeping duff in 100ft setback.
- Time for a larger conversation
 - <https://www.harpswell.maine.gov/vertical/sites/%7B3F690C92>
- Ticks – Should we learn more about what is being used from the applicators in the area, what we can provide differently than the State regarding control products, how the products affect the marine environment?
- Erosion & armoring New State information.
- 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. SENT BACK TO MRC for writing ordinance. Needs more work. 01/2024

Some interesting reading and watching:

- [resources](#) from Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners 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
- MOFGA webinar regarding Radical Forestry Management 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 4 Cruston Way, Falmouth, Maine