

**Town of Harpswell
Town Lands Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Town Office
February 20, 2023**

Present : Ken Oehmig and Hope Hilton, co-Chairs, Jane Smith, Tom Carr, Geoff Feiss

Guests: Selectboard Member Jane Covey

Absent: David Hackett, Harbormaster Paul Plummer, Ned Perry, Associate Member

January minutes accepted without changes.

Old Business:

1. Resiliency and Sustainability Committee (formerly CRITF): Ken reported that there will be a King Tide just before noon tomorrow. It would be appreciated if stewards were to document their sites. Geoff volunteered to do Holbrooks and Bethel. Ken will email all of us the Google Drive link to upload photos.
2. The Town received a grant for lighting and energy audit and is now seeking a grant for engineering analysis to make some Town roads resilient to sea level rise.
3. Townwide parking: The subcommittee appointed by the selectmen has not met since fall when one of its members was away. It will restart soon. Geoff reported 4+/- spaces at Holbrooks, Bethel has around 12 spaces, some with restrictions. Members are encouraged to send in their inventories of parking spaces around town. See last month's minutes for spaces reported by Gina.
4. Steward Reports: no new reports filed. Geoff Feiss will handle Holbrook. Ken will check to see if David Morton is willing to keep monitoring Bethel Point. At Graveyard, the adjacent building is being torn down by the abuttor owner.
5. The request for a bench at Giant Stairs was discussed in brief. The applicants will arrange a date and time to meet with town staff and committee members who may be available.
6. Other landing updates:
Lookout: No update: Paul has not sent any follow up report on the status since the big storm and was not available for this meeting.
Giant Stairs: A reminder will go to the town office to request poison ivy removal before increased public use.
7. Bailey Island toilet: would the Town be willing to contact Biggs to allow a portapotty at his store?

New Business:

Don Miskill of the Mitchell Field Committee presented a status report and overview of MF. The MF Committee questionnaire received 748 responses that did not present any clear majority of views about future use. The results can be reviewed on the Town's website with percentages and comments.

With respect to the Administration Building, an anonymous donor has offered funds. More information is needed before committing to a renovation project. To calculate this, a plan would be needed for site development, including a new assessment of building conditions, and a budget for each

approach. Such a report would be provided to the donor. It is anticipated that removal of the building and erection of a new building would be far less expensive for the Town. There will be a site visit at the Administration Building on Wednesday February 22 at 4:30 for anyone who wishes to attend.

Mitchell Field Town Landing Project report. Originally, for a dock project, the MF Committee anticipated additional costs of \$320,000 in existing funds with \$160,000 anticipated in matching funds. The launch project was estimated at \$390,000 with \$190,000 in match and is at least \$135,000 short. These are common throughout the State due to delays, labor and material shortages, and lingering conditions of covid so that costs have skyrocketed. The launch alone will be around \$390,000 in funds plus \$190,000 in matching funds. The Committee then considered merging the funds for the two projects into one project for which the Committee chose a launch only for the present.

Don also updated the Town Lands Committee on the Town Meeting warrant article to change the shape of the Mitchell Field Business District. The proposed change would have the district remain the same size but the boundary shifted to better accommodate both commercial uses and all the recreational activities.

Next meeting **February 20, 5:00 pm at Town Office.** Meeting adjourned 6:34 pm.

Possible Goals for 2023: Note that listing for information only; does not indicate discussion at any meeting

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
Stewardship Coordinator position	High	On-going
Bailey Island toilet	High	Check with possible business in the spring?
Better/quicker follow up on recommendations		
Poison ivy at GS		Have asked town landscaper to
CRITF monitoring		On-going
Possible acquisitions		Follow up with Pott's Point prospects
Invasive work with HIPP		Spring 23 or summer 23
Better use of Wharf Road Landing		New signage about parking—other ideas?
Better use of York's Landing		Possible improvements at some point
Better use of Merritt House Landing		
Use plan for Grover Lane		
Deaccessioning Indian Rest parcel		Town staff still reviewing
Review Cliff Trail surveys (or get updated survey)		Potential expansion of some areas; Tom to discuss with Rec.
Garrison Cove planning		Waiting for engineering work
Maintaining picnic tables		Monitor to see how they did this winter
Townwide parking policies		
Additional surveys		