



TOWN OF HARPSWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY 6, 2021

MINUTES

Meeting opened: at 2:32 PM by Mary Ann Nahf via Zoom.

Attendance: D. Strachan, W. Batson, P. Ciesielski, M. Nahf, S. Vachon, T. Bachman, Nancy West, J. Zagariello
Absent: Samantha Whittaker

Minutes Accepted: December 16, 2020 Meeting

Announcements:

Organizational meeting for the Climate Resilience Implementation Task Force will be held on January 12, 2021 at 6PM. Can be viewed on Facebook Live.

There will be a Planning Board Workshop tonight (Jan 6) to go over:

- Proposed Ordinance changes. 1) Planning Board is in process of combining the Basic Land Use and Shoreland Zone Ordinances. 2) Changes to the Subdivision Ordinance will address the checks the Harpswell code office has to perform on building projects.
- How to move ahead on updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan has to be updated in order for the town to qualify for some state grants.

Tony Barrett will attend the next meeting to speak about the carbon fee and dividend policy.

Mary Ann will send the Commission members the two town ordinances that were used to stop the dredging in the waters near Paul Ciesielski's .

Storm Water Management & Erosion Control Plan, also known as Low Impact Development (LID) Initiative

This year the Harpswell Conservation Commission is starting an initiative on LID with the goal of possible ordinance changes in the future. During this meeting the Commission had a productive discussion on what constitutes LID and how it relates to Harpswell. Highlight of the discussion are:

- Whether the name of the initiative should be LID or something else will be determined during the research and discussion this year.

- First step of the initiative should be education on what stormwater management is and how it affects the community, residents and fishing community. It was determined that the initial education effort should focus on the general public. This first step should include the publication and distribution of a pamphlet or brochure.
- The initiative should cover the entire town, not only specific areas such as the shoreland, new construction, etc.
- The main thrust of the initiative will be the following three focus areas:
 - Stormwater runoff
 - Note, all property in Harpswell drains into the ocean
 - Nitrogen runoff into coves, need to protect marine environment
 - Preservation of ground water
 - Ground water recharge for wells
 - Importance of trees
 - Maintain trees for carbon sequestration and water retention
 - Benefit of forest as environment resources not just as timber
- Points to keep in mind as the Commission develops this initiative:
 - What can be done on new developments as one starts planning the building phase
 - On existing properties – reduce run-off using rain barrels and LID practices
 - What should be monitored or addressed as part of the building permitting process
 - Stormwater and Erosion control plans as referenced in the Subdivision Ordinance could be considered when updating ordinances in the future
 - When communicating – keep it simple and clear
 - Include stories so readers can relate

Action items:

- Nancy will do research on what services trees provide
- Nancy will look into ground water recharge
- Mary Ann will research the value of trees as a buffer against heat/cold, wind and privacy
- Wendy will investigate the value of trees
- Jennifer will investigate how performing LID activities on your property affects its value

- Jenny has updated the Google doc describing meeting discussion on this topic
- Mary Ann has created a LID folder in Google doc. All material pertaining to this initiative should be placed in this folder.
- Meet with forester to find out how type of trees in Harpswell will change as time goes by

Meeting adjournment: 3:30 PM

Scribe: Sue Vachon

Upcoming Meetings: 1/20 2/3 & 2/17 **2:30** start