



TOWN OF HARPSWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 8, 2020 MINUTES

Meeting Opened: 3:00 PM

Attendance: Members: B Taylor, W. Batson, P. Ciesielski, M. Nahf, S. Vachon, J. Zagariello, Planner: M. Eyerman, Guest: Nancy West *Absent: D. Strachan, B. Betts, T. Bachman*

Approval of Minutes - approved as presented

Announcements:

Picnic Pond Update:

- vandalism (spray paint) at site
- digging exposed possible ordinance. Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE) sent pictures to Navy. Waiting for a reply.
- fencing is recommended.
- P. Ciesielski will keep HCC updated.

New printing guidelines:

Will print agenda to distribute at the meeting. Will not print other documents. Please let Maryann know if you need something. besides agenda, printed for the meeting.

See Heather Logan's article Citizen Science: Document sea level with the Harpswell King Tide Project" <https://hhltmaine.org/category/news-and-updates/> on Harpswell Heritage Land Trust website <https://hhltmaine.org/category/news-and-updates/>

Short discussion on runoff and erosion:

The Bethel Point Rd. area lost more trees as result of last wind storm. The clear cutting in this area can help us look at sediment runoff and erosion and help people understand the need to keep their trees

- invite an arborist with an academic research background to attend a HCC meeting to clarify our knowledge
- review Harpswell Ordinances
- educate public on connection between trees, runoff and erosion

2019 Annual Report:

- Maryann will write
- Climate Resiliency Task Force and Picture Post BIG accomplishments in 2019
- Send other suggestions to include in Report to Maryann
- Committee will review Report before submission

Quahog Farm Subdivision

Schooner Ventures II, LLC addressed number of issues identified during the Site Inventory and Analysis:

- Building envelope does not include area with scantic soils
- Lots with slope in excess of 25% will be set back further than 75 ft from shoreline
- Pastoral view from Route 24 has been preserved.

Remaining Questions and further Actions :

Criteria for use of fertilizer need more specificity. Mary Ann will suggest at Planning Board meeting.

Two-acre subdivision seems to make sense and developers say environmentally better:

- Is the 2-acre plan really better for shoreline?
- How can we ensure that the developers' and individual-home builders' decisions are best for Harpswell's resources?
- Where do ordinances need to be beefed up to address changing needs related to changing climate?
- How can we help developers and individual-home builders consider the impact of the changing climate? Note: CRT Strategic Plan Action Items relate to this question e.g. *The community shall conduct a build-out analysis based on land use regulation that have been compared to the spatial extent of potential future flood hazard areas.*

Climate Resiliency Taskforce (CRT): Final Report and next steps

Final CRT meeting January 7, Final Report given January 29 meeting.

HCC members are invited to come to listen and be informed for our ongoing climate resiliency work in Harpswell.

Comments:

Process discussion provided good starting points for future conversations
Maryann demonstrated a balance of assertiveness and diplomacy!

During final meeting all participants were deeply engaged in the conversation for the first time which is a great outcome.

Strategic Plan approach to roads needs significant revision. e.g. making private roads priority does not make sense

- Pay attention to next flow of money we want
- Don't lose sight of Basin Point Project

Actions for consideration:

Present plan to Board of Selectmen to make **Standing Committee** to execute the CRT's Strategic Plan (**CRTSP**).

Standing Committee Discussion:

- structure of Standing Committee important because climate resiliency affects so many areas, e.g. emergency management, community and fiscal planning.
- dovetail Standing Committee with HCC with possible HCC oversight per HCC Mission "protect the Town's natural resources and open areas. The Commission will continue to work with existing Town committees, departments, and with other conservation bodies in these areas."
- identify goals as outline for Comprehensive Plan.
- develop Comprehensive Plan (CRTSP recommends "*The town should have a Comprehensive Plan that is periodically updated.*")
- "feed out" Comprehensive Plan to various town committees per HCC Mission
- educate public to understand climate resilience in Harpswell
- provide policy to town committees to prioritize fiscal planning in relation to climate change
- educate tax payers about the fiscal planning in relation to climate before voting at Town Meeting
- meet 4 times per year
- Is a Standing Committee redundant?

Population determines whether state of town fixes a road, and on that note.....

Adjourn: 5:00

Upcoming meetings: 2/5 & 2/19

Scribe: Jenny Zagariello