



TOWN OF HARPSWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 **2:30- 3:40 PM**
MINUTES

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362538848?pwd=cXpjT3c1Mit3ekU2ZGM0L3VDUE0rQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 6253 8848

Passcode: 646610

To join by phone: 1 646 558

8656.

Open Meeting: 2:32 pm

- Minute Taker Today: Deirdre
- **Roll Call:** D. Strachan, W. Batson, P. Ciesielski, M. Nahf, S. Vachon, J. Zagariello, Nancy West
- **Approval of Minutes:** No objections or questions. Accepted. Add link to New Hampshire Forest Study.
- **Announcements:** 1) Nancy will send article on the **Hubbard Brook Experimental** Forest Study within a week to HCC. 2) Mary Ann sent links a) Climate Change talk summarized in Press Herald and b) a link from Jay Mc Creight to Federal Ocean Resources committee. Jay submitted a bill to the state to update maps of eel grass in Maine. We asked if she needed letters of support. Mary Ann indicated that we will be able to testify online. 3) Mary Ann told us about LD 155 Hearing on Thurs. 2/17 9am - [**LD 155 – Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids for Outdoor Residential Use**](#), We will not have time to send a support letter.
- **Browntail Moth Update:** Sue worked on a poster to show the differences between winter and brown tail moth. Wendy suggested wording re pesticide application info. Major differences are evident in how they look. Sue will add QR codes and will update the Town website. Some of photos used are from the Maine Forest Service. We agreed that we could make the poster info into a handout. This information will be added to the information that is available on Town Website under Environment: Winter Moth and Brown Tail Moth.

Mary Ann reached out Tom Schmeelk, a Maine Forest expert on Brown Tail Moth. He provided a link to info from State. Mary Ann wrote him to ask clarification regarding the locations in which winter moth have been found in Harpswell recently. Winter web surveys

are done in late spring and early summer and again during a summer fly over so new information will be available in the summer.

- **Issues Re Clear Cutting of Trees:** We discussed the possibility of inviting Shane Duigan, District Forester for Harpswell from the Maine Forest Service, to give us advice on the impacts and regulations regarding clear cutting trees. Questions for him: 1) Is clear cutting of trees a problem from his point of view? Why? Has he seen an increase in clear cutting in Maine? 2) Explain to us the State and federal rules for cutting trees outside the 250-foot shoreline zone. Does he expect to see any changes in rules? 3) What would he recommend to Town of Harpswell regarding our ordinances and any other actions we can take, such as education? Does he know how owners get permission to clear cut? 4) What had been the impact of climate change on trees and regulations regarding cutting?
- **Book on native Maine trees.** Paul recommended a book by the Maine Forest Service on 100 native Maine trees. He mentioned that the % of native trees in Maine has decreased. We wondered what impact climate change is having on the existence and future of native trees.
- **Town Annual Report write up by HCC:** Mary Ann shared a draft of the report and we reviewed it. We made the following suggestions and comments: 1) Include a paragraph about invasive moths, climate resiliency and the program for private road owners. 2) Add links to the final Climate Resiliency Task Force report and to the current CRITF activities. 3) Add information on the CBEP grant to prepare a webinar for private road owners and add a link to information online for private road owners. Wendy will edit and send changes to Mary Ann.
- **Storm Water Management & Erosion Control Plan:** We need to set up a briefing from the State Forestry expert to find out more re regulations. Wendy talked with Gina, a new member of the community . She is an engineer with experience on storm water management and may be willing to help HCC with advice.
- **Roads:** We discussed what our next steps should be. We need to determine the difference between the FEMA and other town maps. Mark indicated we need to get the final word on FEMA maps before we progress. We will then need to look for grant funding to fund a new study. We should determine what questions we need answers for.
- **HCC Workplan for CRITF:** We need to prepare a sequenced workplan for HCC responsibilities with CRITF and assign tasks to HCC members. For example, Jenny, Mary

Ann, and Jay are working on the Socio-Economic issues and plan to brainstorm their ideas with HCC. The other responsibilities for HCC need workplans.

- **Next Steps for CBEP Webinar:** We need to prepare flyers for the March and June elections for homeowners on private roads. We should put together a workplan and assign tasks to HCC members in time for the next meeting on March 3. Mary Ann talked to Chris Baldwin, a Cumberland Soil and Water engineer, and asked for information that can be used for road owners. They normally charge \$1000 but will charge us \$500. Mary Ann will contact again.
- **Update on Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA):** Paul is the Harpswell representative to a group dealing with the Navy and MDEP to clean-up the superfund site at Brunswick Landing. Paul expressed concern that the group had made little progress and the state will soon disband MRRRA. After that any environmental problems will revert to the Town of Brunswick. The major impact on Harpswell is the high levels of PPAS in Harpswell Sound and New Meadows river. The Navy is currently refusing to test the levels.
- **Pamphlets:** Jenny will help send pamphlets to the Town. Diane in Codes will send out.
- **Adjourned:** 3:45 pm
- **Upcoming Meetings:** 3/3, & 3/17 **2:30** start