



TOWN OF HARPSWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 17, 2021
MINUTES

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

Attendance: Present: W. Batson, P. Ciesielski, M. Nahf, S. Vachon, Nancy West, J. Zagariello Absence: D. Strachan

Minutes Accepted: March 3, 2021 Meeting

Announcements:

Members: Jenny Zagariello is now a full member, Bobbie Newberg has been named by the Board of Selectmen as an associate member.

LD593: Bill sponsored by Jay McCreight to restore regular mapping of eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation. Both, Mary Ann Nahf and Jenny Zagariello wrote support letters. In addition, Mary Ann testified at the congressional hearing.

District Forester: Shane Duigan will attend the April 7th Conservation Commission meeting to discuss Maine lumbering statutes and how they relate to Harpswell.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Road Cleanup Planning – The Commission discussed whether they should take responsibility of planning the Annual Road Cleanup since David I. Chipman will no longer perform the task. Cleanup is held in April. Results of discussion are as follows:

- Commission agreed they would be willing to plan the Clean up Day as long we can partner with the Recycling Committee. The task of the Recycling Committee would be to pick up the bags on the side of the road for disposal at the Recycling Center. Wendy Batson will contact her husband, Bob Eaton, with this proposal. The Recycling Committee is meeting this afternoon.
- Nancy West has volunteered to update the poster.
- Members of the Commission will distribute bags and gloves to general stores around town.
- No decision was made concerning providing snacks to the participants.

Private Road Association Webinar Update

- Jenny Zagariello and Nancy West volunteered to help Mary Ann Nahf with the preliminary planning for the webinar. Sue Vachon volunteered to help with preparing posters, etc.
- Mary Ann Nahf will contact Matt Craig of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and Chris Baldwin of the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss outline for the webinar
- The Commission determined the webinar should be held in late June in the middle of the week.

Climate Resilience Implementation Task Force – HCC Update

- Jenny Zagariello and Mary Ann Nahf went on field trip to Long Point to get an appreciation of the effect of sea level rise on the area's social vulnerability. To their surprise impact could be minimal.
- Nancy West and Mary Ann Nahf met and discussed how to implement Communication and Outreach for the Task Force. Nancy will send email to the Task Force Members and Conservation Commissioners for suggestions of people who should be included in this Task Force subgroup. Nancy thinks the information needs to go both ways between the Task Force and the community. She indicated the Task Force has to consider that not everyone is computer savvy and ways will have to be found to communicate to them. Some likely candidates are the librarian of Orr's Island Library and Cundy Harbor Library and other well-connected people in the community.

Saltwater Marshes and Blue Carbon

Mary Ann Nahf recommended that the Commissioners all view the informative video about Blue Carbon. The Commission should keep Blue Carbon in mind when talking about saltwater marsh resiliency since they are a great source for carbon sequestration. Here is the link to the video:

[https://zoom.us/rec/play/dz0nZeBUk9A4LG3yo-yRwGG5vkqmZ9RqAEgD8ZfXDwqkBqIV4_7H-ylwji-](https://zoom.us/rec/play/dz0nZeBUk9A4LG3yo-yRwGG5vkqmZ9RqAEgD8ZfXDwqkBqIV4_7H-ylwji-DeAUz08anjA56VYECohM.qUBWWAekqFRArJ2p?startTime=1614272809000&xzm_rtaid=5y9xBO8kSTeVj4E7ZYJB6g.1615925449467.61db80f8e71202dfd26b47ed23bb7c8d&xzm_rhtaid=897)

[_DeAUz08anjA56VYECohM.qUBWWAekqFRArJ2p?startTime=1614272809000&xzm_rtaid=5y9xBO8kSTeVj4E7ZYJB6g.1615925449467.61db80f8e71202dfd26b47ed23bb7c8d&xzm_rhtaid=897](https://zoom.us/rec/play/dz0nZeBUk9A4LG3yo-yRwGG5vkqmZ9RqAEgD8ZfXDwqkBqIV4_7H-ylwji-DeAUz08anjA56VYECohM.qUBWWAekqFRArJ2p?startTime=1614272809000&xzm_rtaid=5y9xBO8kSTeVj4E7ZYJB6g.1615925449467.61db80f8e71202dfd26b47ed23bb7c8d&xzm_rhtaid=897)

Ordinance Regarding Changing the Measurement of Building Height

There will be an ordinance change on the Town Warrant regarding how it measures the height of structures. Currently it measures height of buildings on slopes differently than the State. This needs to be done in order to conform to the change in the State's SLZ ordinance method on measuring the height of non-conforming structures. On steep slopes it may have the effect of more removal of earth/ledge in order to meet the new height restriction, thus the need to blast more.

Storm Water Management & Erosion Control (LID) Update

- Nancy West does not think that the software tool i-Tree will be of much use to the Commission.
- Nancy West feels that the Stormwater Runoff Model is an unstable platform due to the results it generated on 3 sets of data she input relating to her house. However, the last set of data seemed to give more predictable results. Nancy is willing to work with any Commissioner who wants to input their house values.

- Scribe: Sue Vachon
- Adjourned at 3:34pm
- Upcoming Meetings: 4/7 & 4/21 2:30 start