



# TOWN OF HARPSWELL

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021  
MINUTES - APPROVED

### Meeting opened at 2:37 pm

Roll Call: Paul Ciesielski, Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Wendy Batson, Nancy West, Jenny Zagariello, Sue Vachon, Jane Covey (selectman), Planner, Mark Eyerman Absent: Bobbie Newberg

Minutes of 9/1/2021 approved as corrected in meeting

### Announcements:

- September is Maine Coastal Cleanup Month. Harpswell's cleanup effort will be focused at Bethel Pt Landing on 9/18 and Garrison Cove Landing on 9/25.
- The Maine State Library System has contracted the Drucker Institute of Claremont Graduate University to design and tailor the institute's community-driven lifelong learning system, Bendable, for Maine. Heather Logan (Cundy's Harbor Librarian) will participate in the design and development of Bendable Maine. Bendable will allow residents of all ages and backgrounds to discover content that is just right for them and then acquire new knowledge and skills through online courses as well as local, in-person learning opportunities.
- The Conservation Commission has written a letter in support of a grant that will study the effect of helical moorings on eel grass. 3 coves in town will be involved, two of which are Curtis Cove and Reed Cove. Paul Plummer, the harbormaster, is submitting the grant for the town of Harpswell. Project would be managed by Stantec.

### Runoff, Erosion, Trees Brochure Initiative

- The Conservation Commission spent the rest of the meeting brainstorming their Runoff, Erosion, Trees Brochure Initiative. Highlights of brainstorming are listed below:
  - Information should be provided in the form of individual brochures or flyers consisting of one page. More than one brochure will be needed
  - Brochure(s) should address new homeowners/builders, redevelopment efforts and clearing activity
  - Brochure should be available for public and applicants of building permits
  - Brochures should stress that we are all in this together – everyone has to work together to protect our water supply
  - Relevant ordinance changes, including examples, should be included
  - Importance of trees should be stressed
  - Group should check out webinar by Garden Club dealing with replacing invasive plants and how to reestablish natives on your property after clearing
  - HCC should look into enlisting Harpswell Invasive Partnership Program (HIPP) in regards to revegetation planning. Possible meeting with HIPP in October
  - In the beginning information to be shared with small groups (in-person or virtual)
  - Need to brainstorm Stormwater Management (LID) and its use
  - Tree cutting: when is permit required and how does it apply

- Possible brochure topics are:
  - Tree cutting and clearing
  - Clearing of vegetation
  - Stormwater management
  - Maintaining trees/shrubs to protect well water and marine water quality
  - What are the serious consequences of clearing of trees to groundwater and marine water quality
  - Community effort needed for ground water recharging and protection of marine water
  - Stress that ordinances are designed to help us to protect our water
  - Revegetation if invasive species are removed
  - Encourage people outside the Shoreland Zone on – different flyer
    1. SLZ – what you must do
    2. Outside the SLZ what you are encouraged to do

**Action Item (to be performed by all)**

- Start the initiative by developing one flyer
  - Subject: Vegetation clearing
  - Action Item: All Commissioners should investigate what other towns are doing. Web could provide good graphics. Also look at what water districts have done
  - If possible take photos of water pouring off land during downpours
  - Possible item to be included in flyer:
    1. What are the clearing standards and what it means. Permit now required for ordinance change
    2. Why keeping water on your property is important (intro paragraph
    3. Retrofitting your property and how it can affect your stormwater control
- Review list of possible. brochures/flyers (above) and propose additional topics at next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Next Meeting 10/6, 10/20

Minutes submitted by:

Sue Vachon, scribe

Some interesting reading and watching:

- [Coastal Resilience | Maine](#)
- National EPA Soils Calculator - <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/national-stormwater-calculator>
- P. Slovinsky Feb. 2021 Maine Coastal Property Owner's Guide to Eros., Flood. & Other hazards. [https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1605&context=mgs\\_publications](https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1605&context=mgs_publications)
- MOFGA webinar regarding Radical Forestry Management [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPorH1i\\_\\_Uw#t=0m0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPorH1i__Uw#t=0m0s)
- Edgewood Nurseries Lecture re: Food forest gardening; discusses ability to grow under the canopy of trees if understand the root structure. (Possible talk w/Aaron. [edgewoodlandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:edgewoodlandscapes@gmail.com) 4 Cruston Way, Falmouth, Maine

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**Minute Taking Info**

**Minute Takers**

July	Nancy
August	Nancy
September	Paul
September	Sue
October	Deirdre
October	Bobbie
November	Nancy
November	Paul
December	Sue
December	Jenny
January	Wendy
January	Deirdre

**Minute Taker Hints**

Can use the agenda as template, just substitute Minutes for Agenda

Record attendance, opening and closing time

Record votes - if vote split show the #Yea and nay

Record action items and responsibility

Where possible summarize pertinent discussion

Sign minutes, send draft to members for review; update w edits and resend.

Once minutes approved mark APPROVED and send to:

[lstrickland@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:lstrickland@town.harpswell.me.us)  
[dplourde@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:dplourde@town.harpswell.me.us)