

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

**Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022 (Nauset Room and via Zoom)**

Attendees: Judith Bruce, Carol Etzold, Carolyn Kennedy, Richard Levy, Robert Mullin and Judy Scanlon (Chair)

Regrets: Ed Hafner, Valerie May

Other: Michael Herman, Select Board Liaison

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

2. Coordination of Orleans Freshwater Pond Spring Sampling-Status Update

Carolyn Kennedy reported that all ponds should be covered. Sampling dates are 11th, 14th and the 20th of April. All bottles are coming in from SMAST on Wednesday and freezer materials are ready. Carolyn still needs to know how many kits and buckets to prepare.

There was an extended discussion of the details on who is sampling when and where, as well as logistic of the sample transportation to SMAST.

A number of outstanding sampling logistics issues were addressed. Bob Mullin will help Carolyn on the 11th (Monday) and drive the samples that day. Carol will drive on the other days. We still need to know when Ed Hafner is sampling. Lara Slifka will be doing Baker Pond on Monday the 11th. Judith will be doing the most ponds (eight) and will get them to our water quality lab by 2 PM on the 11th and 14th. Judith will be providing additional ice (in bags) to supplement the ice packs.

3. Coordination of Summer Estuary Sampling (Orleans)-Status Update

Judith reported that we lost 3 sampling teams which covered Pleasant Bay. She has two replacements and one in the works. We need to confirm the dates to recruit boats owners. One new person will be covering the Nauset Estuary. There is a backup plan; Ed and Judith can do Stony Island and Wood Cove in kayaks. These two sites were missed the most in 2021. Goose Hummock will be doing the three sites in Town Cove. Judith mentioned that most samplers like to do multiple stations. The Chair mentioned that there is a Town employee who would like to participate, but would need permission from their supervisor to participate since the sampling window is during normal work hours.

Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2022 (con't)

Carol brought up the fact that teams often set the sampling window times, right or wrong, and Judith offered that our training has not helped with consistency in following the instructions for recommended time of sampling.

The history of estuary sampling in Orleans was discussed. Judith and the Chair offered thanks all those volunteers who have helped over the past 20 years.

4. Pilgrim Lake Herring Run-Annual Volunteer Herring and Eel Count-Brief Update

The Chair reported that the Town's volunteer visual herring and eels count program has been in place since 2008. The Pilgrim Lake run is only one of two in Pleasant Bay. The fish arrived early this year on March 20th, and Nate Sears turned on the video counter later that day. Brad Chase from MA DMF has reported seeing excellent images on motion activated video system. Brad is processing images right now; but later volunteers will assist with the counting of the video clips manually. The Chair hopes that in the future, we will be able to eventually set up live internet feed from the run as they do in the Mystic River Watershed Association, where citizens can log on from anywhere and count herring. Our system also records fish passing through at night, which we have previously not been able to document. This data is important since the fish also tend to run at night.

Rich Levy, the Volunteer Coordinator, reported that visual herring counts began on March 22 with volunteers available at that time. There are nine Team Captains for nine teams, covering the nine count periods each day, 7 days/week, so 63 counting slots per week. We still have 8 open counting slots. Volunteers count for 10 minutes any time within their designated count period. We are missing two team captains and Rich is acting as captain for Team 2 and Team 4. The captains are filling in as much as possible right now until we have enough volunteers.

One volunteer came as a result of the Mary Griffin's OPC article which was published in the Cape Cod Chronicle on March 31st. The Chair emphasized that the sampling is only ten minutes once a week within the assigned team count time period.

5. Proposed Topics for The Next MFWQ Committee Meeting on 4-25-22:

(1). Baker Pond Management Plan and Diagnostic Assessment-Draft Final Report. Committee comments/questions, follow-up with report author.

Ed Eichner will submit a track changes document in response to our comments. He has agreed to be at our next meeting on the 25th to answer some questions, at no cost to the Town.

(2). Baker Pond Management Plan and Diagnostic Assessment-Draft Final Report. Discuss/decide on MFWQ Committee recommendations for submission to the Select Board.

Committee members need to finalize their thoughts on Baker Pond, and come prepared to discuss this at the April 25th meeting. Judith recommended that we ensure that we review our recommendations on wastewater management. Carol asked about updated hard copies with the Track Changes for the next meeting. The Chair recommended that we not ask the Town for

Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2022 (con't)

hard copies as George Meserve's office has already printed out copies of the draft report once. We can use that, or look at the electronic copy. The Clerk reminded the committee that he distributed the final consolidated list of our comments/questions following our review of the draft report, and also the version of the January 24th minutes with the technical edits Ed Eichner provided. Following Committee approval, we will add that document as an addendum to the January 24th minutes.

(3). SMAST November 2021 Cedar Pond Annual, and Semi-Annual Reports. General discussion.

The Chair reported that the annual 2020 report and the 2021 semi-annual reports were both submitted in November, 2021, are now available on Town website. The Cedar Pond water quality monitoring and pond management program is continuing this year under coordination of SMAST. Ed Eichner will be at our next meeting to answer questions and provide additional technical information if needed during our discussions.

6. Announcements

The Chair reported that the Select Board will be interviewing candidates for the remaining opening on the Committee.

7. Public Comments

Judith reported that the OPC Sarah's Pond Side Stream demonstration project is up and running again as of March 7th and the water temperature was 5 degrees Celsius. There have been many improvements in the system, and they will be checking turbidity.

There were no public Comments.


7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:10 AM. Rich motioned to adjourn; Judith seconded. Approved, 6-0-0

Future MFWQC Meeting Dates: YR 2022 - Apr. 25, May 23, June 27.

Minutes were approved at the Committee Meeting on April 25th, with proposed changes.

Vote:7-0-0

 04/27/22