

**Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2022 (Nauset Room and via Zoom)**

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

Regrets: Mary Griffin

Other: Michael Herman, Select Board Liaison

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

2. SMAST April 2022 Cedar Pond Annual Technical Report (Jan. 2021-Dec. 2021) Brief Discussion

Multiple members suggested that we put this topic on agenda again for next month and try to separate out possibly conflicting management goals. The Chair agreed to put it on the next agenda

A few members believe there are possibly conflicting management goals and that the basic question is to what water quality conditions do we want to restore it to. One member noted that the Adaptive Management Plan was written in 2013, and that it may be out of date. Members talked about wanting to understand better the sources and quality of surface and ground water input into the pond, as well as the upcoming impact of sewage control. Several Committee members wanted to know if the groundwater flow and surface runoff has decreased or increased, and about the natural attenuation properties of the pond. One member asked about the impact of our current knowledge on sea level rise on the pond and when anticipated changes in sea level might be expected to influence the most recent management strategy and plan.

Regarding the herring in Cedar Pond, the Chair reported that up to 100 herring have been caught in nets, and that herring were coming up to the pond, as well as eels. One member noted that George Meservey is in discussions with Brad Chase and SMAST, and that modifications have been made to the pen boards to adjust the salinity.

Ed Haffner reported that he is happy with the progress that has been made in overall pond water quality improvements

Actions:

1. Collect the questions of the MFWQC Committee members on the Cedar Pond Management Plans and Reports.
2. Invite Ed and Brian to a future meeting to answer questions raised as a result of data presented by the Friends of Rock Harbor.
3. The Chair to ask Ed Eichner and Brian Howes to briefly update the Select Board about positive water quality improvements observed to date (e.g., Cedar Pond, Uncle Harvey's Pond).

4. The Chair to invite Brad Chase a future meeting to talk about herring activity in the estuary and Cedar Pond.

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

All the teams are set up with several changes in teams and assignments and a few new volunteers. We still need to set up the training, however we are still 6 weeks out. Judith suggested that we set up some additional in person training sessions, particularly for the Nauset Estuary / Cape Cod Bay protocols.

There are still a few possible holes in the sampling plan – specifically Stoney Island and Woods Cove (WMO-30 and WMO-31). The Chair said Nate Sears may be able to help in a bind, and Judith was wondering if the Town has a flat bottom boat which might be used?

Actions:

1. Judith will send out the geographic coordinates for the sampling stations in June, arrange the in-person training with Pleasant Bay Alliance, and provide one on one training for PB volunteers, if needed.
2. The Chair will send out equipment lists to SMAST, set out the kits, and will pick up the equipment in Chatham.
3. The Chair will work with Ed on recording a sampling video for the NE/CCB protocol. Judith will set up the training sessions for the last two weeks in June.

4. Sarah's Pond/OPC WQ Project-and APCC Cyanobacteria Monitoring- Update

All is going well. Telemetry is providing the continuous reading of dissolved oxygen and temperature at four levels in real time. The machine is now programmed to automatically shut off when oxygen reaches a certain level and turn back on when it drops below a set level.

Cyanobacteria monitoring is ready to roll. Training has taken place and every two-week sampling will begin on June 7th. Pilgrim, Crystal, Uncle Harvey's, Icehouse, Boland and Cedar are being monitoring.

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

The Chair reported that there was another surge around the blood moon. There was already a surge in early May. This is probably the largest run in 40 years.

Rich Levy reported that it has been challenging to cover all of the sampling times with the volunteers we have now. Already, a small number of volunteers count on multiple days. Overall, however, the captains and volunteers are doing a great job at covering for those volunteers with scheduling conflicts. The counting will conclude on May 31st.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes-April 25, 2022

The Chair will not be asking the Committee members to approve the April 25th Meeting Minutes today, as the Chair and Clerk were not able to review them prior to the meeting today.

Instead, as it relates to the April 25th draft minutes, the Chair and the Clerk briefly discussed meeting minutes in general and asked what the Committee members about their expectations are for them. The Clerk reviewed the expectations of the Town for Committee meeting minutes as discussed in

Requirements for Public Meetings Compliance with the Open Meeting Law (effective July 1, 2010, updated October 6, 2017).

There was a brief discussion of the purpose of the Minutes in light of having access to the videos of the meeting. The Clerk raised the question about availability of the videos going forward, and stated that it is not that easy to find those from this past January and 2021. Sarah Eaton, the Town staff person responsible for the posting the videos, said that they are all available on the site. The Clerk suggested that the pathway to reach these videos be made more visible on the site.

Ed suggested that the Clerk prepare a high-level summary only of each topic discussed. The Chair recommended that only the topics discussed and actions taken be documented. A "transcription" of the meeting is not needed with videos.

Action: The Clerk will modify the May 23rd minutes as well as all pending draft minutes (March 7 and April 25) to reflect the wishes of the Committee. Focus to be on a brief summary of any discussions and ensuring that any actions are noted. Committee members will add their specific comments to the draft minutes if they want them to be recorded.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:20 AM was approved. 7-0-0

Future MFWQC Meeting Dates: YR 2022 - June 27.

Minutes approved June 27, 2022. Vote: 7-0-0.

Handwritten signature and date: RNY
06/28/22