



Minutes from Steering Committee Meeting

April 11, 2025

4pm

In attendance:

Erik Skramstad

Ann Frechette

Rich Walker

Diana Preston

Scott Norum

John Ketchum

Susan Cyr

Donna Connolly (via zoom)

Absent:

Hallie Vitolo

Patrick Otton

- I. Approval of March 14 Meeting Minutes- ***APPROVED; Susan to take fix to Jan 31 minutes for Diana/Donna correction. Attached is updated minutes for John to upload..***
- II. Financial Update
 - ***Balance of \$104 in CC5 checking account; \$48 in Paypal- \$152 total balance.***
 - June 14 meeting – what expenses do we anticipate? ***NONE – already paid for room; no food and drink. Keep it simple.***
 - Pond Pledge signs - ***\$40 sounds steep? Could do smaller? Won't have by Jun meeting but could take orders and deliver mid summer. We should charge cost. 10x12 is good size; aluminum with a "stake kit". \$18.30 visible at night. \$20/sign. We will offer the following tiers***
 - 1) Membership dues \$25***
 - 2) Member who makes Pond Pledge but doesn't want the sign so just dues at \$25***
 - 3) Member who makes the Pond Pledge and pays for the sign (\$20) and dues \$25.***
 - ***Are they ok with public acknowledgement of their pond pledge on website?***

- **John will draft a form with all this and run it by all of us.**
 - Bookmarks – recommend we table the idea until we fill the coffers? Nice sendoff at the end of the season, maybe? **After group discussion, team agrees to move forward since we have the money to pay for these and would be a nice handout at Jun 14 meeting. Bookmark with HPC logo, 3 bullets on Pond Pledge, QR code to Pond pledge with website address. Erik to work with Clinton from GLSA to draft bookmark. Ann will connect them via email.**
 - Member Dues – do we make the ask prior to the June 14 meeting? **YES!**
- III. Approval of my “Town Meeting” email to HPC members – **see edits below.**
- **Add blurb to generate membership drive/dues to this note**
 - **Take out all the verbiage and JUST list the Article number and title – lose the explanation and leave it to the members to read the warrant. Keeps us neutral.**
 - **Susan to re-do the abbreviated letter based on group discussion. Will NOT include the detail from Patrick. Will send around for approval/edits.**
 - Plastics item – do we all support NOT overturning the current ban? We have worded the email (purposefully) as “educating our membership”. If we add the item, I think we can’t tell them to “vote no” – I think we reiterate the environmental concerns that they should be aware of? **See above – will just list the item.**
- IV. Approval of support for Phase 3A Town Meeting warrant Chronicle letter (attached). Do we approve HPC being listed in support of this item on Ann’s letter re: the warrant? **To be consistent with our neutral approach on the HPC Town Meeting update, we will not lend HPC name publicly.**
- V. Pond Pledge & signage next steps (thank you Hallie and Donna!)
- Are we all in agreement on the Pond Pledge? **YES. John wrote a second page of detail that we need to approve and has sent it via email. Please review the copy with Ann’s edits this morning.**
 - Are we all in agreement on the logo? **Keep the logo to the simple bird/fish only.**
 - Are we all in agreement on which sign? **YES – #7 with the water.**
 - Timing of pledge/sign purchase? **Donna to see if she can get a prototype of the sign in time for the Jun meeting. We will do a bulk order after meeting, depending on participation.**
- VI. June 14 next steps
- Don’s departure – **no update.**
 - APCC – Sophia Feuerhake will join us as both Julie and Kristen are unable to attend. Sophia is the Freshwater Science Coordinator.

- Still waiting for confirmation from Amy and Carrie. Also waiting for confirmation on specific pond alert notification from Carrie. Sent them both a reminder email. Left messages for both of them. ***Amy confirmed. Ann will try and confirm Carrie at fair on April 19. Added note: Ann will cover HPC in Health & Environment fair on April 19. Hallie/Patrick – let Ann know if you wanted to join her but she is fine covering it herself. Thanks, Ann!***

VII. Diana added topics – Discussion only, no actions for us as HPC team.

- ***Design for bulkhead in Saquatucket Harbor – questioning the amount of money for just the design. \$770k is in 2026 capital outlay plan. The whole capital outlay plan is an article that gets voted on in Town Meeting.***
- ***Scott heard from Harbormaster on Capital Outlay committee – question on whether or not it's urgent and can it be phased. Mark Kelleher has asked for the engineering analysis – it is a pending request. Town has been slow to respond to the request.***
- ***Golf Course expenditure; \$2.5m sprinkler heads at Cranberry – funded out of the golf fees. Fertilizer/water use also concerns. Golf course superintendent was very active advocate for environmental concerns in previous town fertilizer discussions and using environmentally acceptable practices.***
- ***How do we quantify/qualify impact on drinking water. Dan Pelletier told Ann it is NOT quantifiable. Best you can say is “prevent degradation to the of the excellent quality of the aquifer”.***
- ***Diana suggested that we check out the April 23 videos for the event at the Orpheum(see email that Patrick had forwarded, also mentioned in APCC newsletter).***

VIII. Anything else?

- ***Rich brought up outdated website on Friends of Hawksnest – are they part of Six Ponds? Susan can confirm with the contacts from SixPonds.***

**Next Meeting – Friday, May 30; Susan's house (118 Headwaters Dr)
4pm.**