



Minutes – HPC Meeting Dec 8; Susan’s house; 118 Headwaters Dr. Zoom option as well.

Attendees:

Ann Frechette	Diana Preston
Ben Warshaw	Susan Cyr
John Ketchum	Scott Norum(zoom)
Rich Walker	Donna Connolly(zoom)
Patrick Otton	Erik Skramstad(zoom)

- Approval of Oct 6 & Oct 30 Meeting Minutes – ***APPROVED with change to add the vote with Diana abstaining.***
- Financial Update –
 - Cape Cod 5 checking. \$882
 - PayPal. \$952
 - **Total available \$1834**
- ***2 new members Jessica Handley and Dan Wolf***
 - Donation from JoAnn Brown – sent a thank you note to her at 27 Vacation Ln. ***And is now a member.***

Old Business:

- Urine Diversion working committee – Scott/Patrick update:
 - Scott asked Finance Committee/Select Board for “re-formation” of wastewater support group. We are supposed to do this for MA – monitor nitrogen reduction quarterly (2011, lasted 2 yrs, disbanded). Finance Chair sent note to Select Board. Part of Comprehensive Wastewater Mgmt Plan.
 - Martha Donovan – advocate for alternatives to sewer (chair of capital outlay committee). She could be good ally.
 - Sewer – full long term estimate is now over \$500m
 - Luddy – there could be state funding for pilot projects. Should be checked out.
 - David Swords – GSLA: another possible candidate for reformation support group.

- 80% of nitrogen and 60% of phosphorous in urine. Heat the urine(pasteurized) is what they do – remove water and cheaply transport. Wasted is Falmouth partner. Rich Earth in VT.
- Finance hasn't done a long term budget model on sewerage and needs to.

New Business:

- 2026 Goal Setting
 - What are our top 3 goals for 2026?
 - June 6 annual meeting should focus on these larger goals, knowing we may get pulled into other efforts during the year.
 - **Expanded Testing of Harwich ponds:** APCC is requesting volunteers (see email from Lynn at APCC)
 - **Educate Harwich residents & seasonal visitors on what they can do to reduce or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide use**
1. Other signs other than pond pledge – how do we educate?
 2. QR code – at HCT trail heads, beaches
 3. Chamber of Commerce calendar of events and see if we can get on them(*Susan will reach out*)
 4. Pondfront postcards – do full 1100 addresses. (Christina – GSLA postcard). Find email with comments – and add meeting date. *Susan to circulate the last draft we have; team decided that we should send to ALL pondfront addresses. Susan to connect with Donna to resurrect some of the prior quotes we had.*
 5. Fundraising - Corporate partners/sponsors – establish some criteria, guidelines, framework for fundraising. Get playbill from Harwich Jr theater, septic companies (Gold, silver, platinum) *BEN/ERIK/DONNA to brainstorm next steps*
 - **Advocate for tighter policies on fertilizer/pesticides by partnering with a wide coalition of Harwich town employees, business owners, clubs & organizations and residents.**

Coalition of study committee

- Discussed the proposed warrant article that John and Diana have worked on. While the team agrees that we need to do “something” on fertilizer reduction, there are a number of viewpoints on how best to do that. While data would be helpful, there would be a significant effort required to collect, report and analyze it.
- Ann suggested that we could pursue both warrant article and “study group option” that Scott pitched last time.
- Susan had sent the note to the Select Board after the Oct 30 meeting. The note asked to be on the agenda for a Select Board meeting to pitch the study group idea. While Mark Kelleher reached out to confirm receipt of the request, the

- Select Board is currently focused on hiring a new Town Administrator (as they should be). I don't anticipate getting on their radar until after a TA is hired.
- Since Board of Health seems to be open to engaging on this issue, discussion landed on next step of John reaching out to Carrie and asking her thoughts on what the next step should be.
 - Discussion came back to "education" which has been the standard pushback from different stakeholders. See prior ideas for outreach earlier in this document. Maybe first step is a checklist similar to what we did for septic but for fertilizer. Keep it simple, bring it to town expo in January, post on website, social media and maybe even get BOH to partner with us on "publication" and put it on their website. (This could be Erik's first bite of the elephant....or maybe each place we post it/share it is a different bite...). **Ann will work on this for Jan town expo.**
 - Ben suggested reviewing 330 CMR 15 for additional regulations around fertilizer/lime application, with mandated 2x annual tonnage reporting for licensed applicators (landscapers). Registration, licensing, and reporting also applies to pesticide applicators. Possible good starting point for data.
- Website update discussion continued
 - Ben will partner with John to tweak the website for updates and modifications.
 - Social media expansion – Ben had some great ideas that we can incorporate once we get the website to where we want it. Both website and social media should be aligned with "brand image" (logo, messaging, etc)
 - Ben mentioned using google docs as central location for submitting edits, etc. which makes total sense (actually, should use for newsletter as well – we should establish a google drive for all our internal comms?)
 - Pond Pages – questioned on hard copy "like Brewster"? Should we publicly state sticking to digital for environmental/expense reasons? (We didn't actually "vote" on whether everyone agreed with me on this but unless we specifically fundraise to produce something tangible like Brewster, we don't have the funds).
 - How do we get QR code out there so people can scan and link to HPC website?
 - Pond Pledge & signs – how do we publicize more effectively?
 - Website design tweaks – we discussed high school internship opportunity in Oct 30 meeting – let's come back to this once we have Ben take a look at it.
 - Susan to draft a newsletter to our membership distro – Jan 2026 (will work on draft this week – would love to get it out before end of Dec.
 - Pond Education/Advocacy next steps

Septic

- Is this complete for now? We have checklist and named discounts. We need to get this on website and identify how else we want to communicate? ***Town sent out preferred list of septic haulers earlier. 17-18 licensed with Harwich. What happens if they are no longer licensed? 5 with Harwich addresses are offering \$25 discounts – Let's focus on the 5 with respect to posting on website and mention in newsletter or social media.***

Fertilizers

- Patrick/Susan update from BOH meeting
- Diana/John warrant proposal for fertilizer application reporting by landscapers
- Select Board follow up – do we just move forward with BOH and invite others?

Pesticides

- Patrick/Susan update from BOH meeting.

- Pond Coalition reach outs – **push to January meeting**
 - Brewster
 - Falmouth
 - Other pond orgs

- **Next Board meeting?**
 - **Scheduled for Friday Jan 9 from 12-2**
 - **Susan will send out agenda by end of December but should have updates on the following:**
 - **Dues/fundraising**
 - **BOH next steps on fertilizer discussion**
 - **Website/social media updates**