

# MEETING MINUTES

## Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission

11/5/19 Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Middleborough Town Hall, Middleborough, MA.  
Recorded by MCCAM.

Wardens Present: Tom Barron, Ron Burgess, David Cavanaugh, Brad Day, Bill Orphan.

Observers Present: Louise Dery-Wells

Visitors: Bob Barboza, Carol Carson.

Ron requested to take items out of agenda order because he had to leave early. There was no objection.

### Unanticipated:

#### Old Business:

2. a. Bridgett, the grad student working on the Natural Heritage permit for the weed removal and the sediment trap is coordinated by SRPEDD who is also providing office space and support. She is working diligently and the hope is that the single permit will cover both projects. She and SRPEDD are coordinating with state and federal officials on this.

b. No new information.

c. Ron talked with the contractors at Oliver Mill and reiterated that no debris should be allowed to escape downstream. They have removed the water control and are seeding and stabilizing banks. The F, G, and H channels are open and water is flowing freely. We need to keep an eye that no fry try to use those channels and block them if needed.

d. Tom received a copy of the old engineering plans from building the Assawompset dam and will provide them to ~~SRPEDD~~ for use in the sediment trap design.

*OUTBACK*

#### New Business:

1. Motion by Tom to accept the minutes of the October 1 meeting. Second: Ron. Unanimous.

2. All recommended appointments were approved and appointed by both boards of Selectmen.

3. Brad would like to do more research on a new weed rake. The rake he had in mind would not hold up to conditions in our river.

4. Discussion concerning the Middleborough Town Manager's request to update our goals and objectives. Motion by Ron to ratify what was already sent. Second Tom. Unanimous. Motion by Tom to forward the following list. Second: Ron. Unanimous.

**Goal: Continue efforts to enforce herring catching regulations and maintain a presence along the river and pond complex**

Continuing to maintain a visible presence along the river, at the parks, and at the Assawompset Pond Complex (APC) to enforce herring catching regulations and deter illegal activity.

**Goal: Continue efforts for public education about the herring migration, increase educational outreach to youth and schools**

Participated at the Herring Run Festival and presented at the Science Café to provide information; continue presence at appropriate local events; maintain current information in educational kiosks; meet with visitors to the fish ladders; provide programs when asked to home school and youth groups. Make ourselves available to any group who asks for a presentation or visit to the ladder. Potential to utilize intern to prepare and provide educational activities.

**Goal: Repair and maintain the fish ladder at Thomas Memorial Park as part of our continuing requirement to maintain and improve herring passage.**

Ongoing as time permits with volunteers. Coordinate with MA Division of Marine Fisheries and DPW as needed.

**Goal: Work with the Park Dept. and other partners to repair and maintain the fish ladder at Oliver Mill Park as part of our continuing requirement to maintain and improve herring passage.**

Ongoing as time permits with volunteers. Coordinate with MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Park Dept. and DPW as needed.

**Goal: Maintain the educational kiosks at Oliver Mill Park and Thomas Memorial Park in good repair as part of our ongoing educational effort.**

Maintain and update information as time permits. Eagle Scout projects and rebuilding the damaged kiosk currently have the kiosks well maintained. Utilize outside volunteers (scout and school service hours) as available.

**Goal: Continue the process of obtaining permits to allow the Ecoharvester test.**

Local permits have been obtained. Ongoing effort, utilizing a grad student and SRPEDD, to obtain the Natural Heritage (endangered species) taking permit.

**Goal: Work with agencies (DMF, DFW, DEP, New Bedford Water Dept. Taunton Water Dept., Middleborough, Lakeville) to continue and expand eradication measures.**

Ongoing communication with all the above, state representatives and SRPEDD. Pushing for a regional approach to weed eradication and state funding.

**Goal: Develop a procedure for monitoring invasive weed growth that might impair herring passage.**

Visual monitoring at what has shown to be trouble spots along the river. Utilize hand tools as time permits to maintain passage. Potential to utilize interns and grad students to develop a monitor program.

**Goal: Continue working with partners in a regional effort to improve herring passage throughout the entire Taunton River and Narragansett Bay run.**

Ongoing communication with agencies and state representatives identified above, as well as participation with area watershed groups through the River Herring Network.

5. The River Herring Network meeting was well attended, with many good presentations.

6. Discussion was held on Sen. Rodrigues \$100,000 flood study allocation. Tom reported that the Div. of Ecological Restoration would perform a flood hazard study. Motion by Dave to contact Michelle Craddock (DER) and emphasize that the study should be a comprehensive watershed study and focus on the Nemasket River and Assawompset Pond Complex drainage. Second: Brad. Unanimous.

**Old Business:**

1. -- Brad will plan a day for ladder maintenance in early December and coordinate with the DPW to lower the dam. Crack maintenance should wait for summer.

-- No fry were seen in the ponds or river.

-- No boards have been added to the Assawompset dam.

**Communications and Bills**

Motion to adjourn by Tom. Second: Dave. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.