

## MEETING MINUTES

### Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission

Received

MAR 15 2021

Lakeville Town Clerk

2/2/21 Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Middleborough Town Hall, Middleborough, MA.

Wardens Present: Tom Barron, Ron Burgess, Carol "Krill" Carson, David Cavanaugh, Bill Orphanos Emily Ryan.

Absent: Brad Day.

Observers Present:

Visitors: Patricia Cassidy (Conservation Agent); Emily Surette (Asst. to Town Manager).

#### Unanticipated:

#### New Business:

1. Emily S. gave an overview of pending work at Oliver Mill Park. This year, late summer and early fall, is expected to see stonework done along the A-channel (fish ladder/main course). Brad Chase from DMF has no problem with the work, since grades for the fish ladder will not be changed. Concern was expressed for herring fry if they come downriver during the work. Possibly using the B-channel to divert the fry. Concern was expressed that prior work destroyed headwalls and opened other channels without being repaired, causing the Commission to close off channels, out of concern for fish being trapped.

Motion by Dave to provide a letter of support for the project and add our concerns if fry migrate during the work. Second: Ron. Amended motion by Ron to also express dissatisfaction with the contractor removing headwalls and flowing water in channels, allowing siltation to migrate downstream and not repairing headwalls during phase two. Also to request the Conservation Commission and Town Manager that we be notified of future meetings. Second: Emily R. Voted 5 to 1 in favor. Vote on the combined motion was unanimous.

TRICIA  
2. Informal discussion with ~~Trisha~~ concerning reuse of the DPW facility and land revealed the Commission wanting to see land near the river maintained as parkland, increase parking for Thomas Memorial Park, provide for a more formal canoe launch area, regrade drainage, better lighting and security cameras, and integrate clearing and dredging of the channel between the fish ladder and main river. Motion by Dave to send these suggestions to the Middleborough selectmen, town manager, the APC management committee and the Taunton River Stewardship Council. Second: Ron. Unanimous.

3. Discussion concerning lighting at Wareham St. and Oliver Mill. It was noted that lighting at Wareham St. over the general park area and illuminating the counting area could be better. Lighting at the Oliver Mill parking lot does not exist. Oliver Mill is not under our control. Lighting at Wareham St. is adequate, if not perfect. Lighting at Wareham St. should be integrated into the DPW area reuse.
4. Motion by Tom to accept the minutes of the January 5 meeting. Second: Krill. Unanimous.
5. Nominations for annual election of officers were for Bill as chair, Tom as vice chair, and Emily R. as secretary. No other nominations. Motion by Tom to vote the slate. Second: Ron. Unanimous.
6. Members were reminded to return the ethics/Conflict of Interest receipt to the Middleborough Town Clerk and complete the on-line training by the required deadlines.
7. Discussion on a request for Zoom meetings. Since Covid restrictions are lasting longer than anyone anticipated, the possibility of 'face time' or similar attendance for Observers was a possibility. There are legal requirements for voting members to participate remotely. Emily R. volunteered to look into requirements for Zoom meetings through the town.

#### **Old Business**

1. a. Tom reported New Bedford removed one board on the first three bays of the Assawompset dam. They plan to remove more in the coming week. Water is flowing over the dam at the three bays and the fish ladder. The river is higher, but higher upstream than at Wareham St., leading to the belief that choke points are causing decreased flow. No fry were seen.
  - b. Ron is monitoring weeds above the Wareham St. ladder and will adjust boards for the coming season. He will request the bascule dam be raised as needed.
  - c. Trees are down all along the river. We have not had a river inspection trip in a while.
2. a. Ron talked with Bill Napolitano (SERPED) and reiterated that the federal permit has to be submitted soon and to get the ball rolling. It has still not been filed. Ron will again stress the urgency. He talked with John Crane (the turtle guy) who will honor his prior quotes to watch for Cooters during the EcoHarvester operation.
  - b. Outback is still working on the sediment trap plan.

#### **Communications and Bills**

1. Financial rollups were presented.

Motion by Tom to adjourn. Second: Ron: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM