



Bank Building, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346

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LAKEVILLE TOWN CLERK

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Location: Middleboro Town Hall Selectmen's Room

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

Wardens Present: Bill Orphanos, David Cavanaugh, Emily Ryan, Bruce Chase, Tom Barron

Absent: Brad Day, Carol "Krill" Carson

Observers Present: Ron Burgess, Janet MacCausland

Visitors:

### **Unanticipated:**

Herring Proclamation that was sent on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, was reviewed and edits were made.

Dave made a motion to notify the Board of Selectmen we have no objection to the proclamation with the edits.

Second by Tom. Unanimous.

### **New Business:**

1. Tom made motion to accept minutes with minor edits.

Dave Second. Unanimous.

2. Dave explained proposal from counter to update counting log process. Dave added that he was concerned that adding the steps to enter the counts into the computer would leave room for error or forgetting to input the counts altogether.

Bruce agreed but suggested the commission support the counter's suggestion to allow her kids to take photo of the data and enter it, but it won't be the way the commission collects data officially.

Ron added we have a good system in place and good relationship with Marine Fisheries and want to keep counts honest and accurate.

Tom agreed with what had been said and added many people may not be willing to add the counts to the computer.

Tom made a motion to keep the data collection process the same.

Second by Bruce. Unanimous.

3. Dave nominated current positions and made motion to vote on extending positions:

Bill Orphanos – Chair  
Tom Barron – Vice Chair  
Emily Ryan – Secretary

Second by Bruce. Unanimous.

4. Ron was notified by Brad Chase of expiring agreement with Atlantic Fisheries and MDMF. If it expires there will be no option to take herring by the Herring Commission.

Dave added that since we currently have a sustainable run the Atlantic Fisheries gives permission to allow recreational fishing. Dave believes having the agreement current is beneficial and we can act on it if needed. However, does not believe we should be the only run in MA allowing it. Tom made motion to continue with agreement with the Atlantic Fisheries and MDMF.

Second by Dave. Unanimous.

5. Dave read letter of proposed work previously sent to Nils for the Herring Commission. Dave suggested using the same letter as previously sent with updates.

Dave explained Oliver Mill work planned is repair work on the wall. The work is planned for late Summer/early Fall.

Ron added that when the previous work was completed the entire A channel was blocked and water redirected to other channels.

Tom made motion to send the letter with updates to Nils.

Second by Bruce. Unanimous.

## **Old Business**

1. a. Tom reported first fish sighting today! Time to get counting!

Lake level is still on the high side and if anything, the level rose a couple inches since the last meeting. There is a good flow between the lakes, but the lake is not draining because it is clogged.

Bill added the ladder looks good and the flow looks good.

Bruce asked about the 2x4 board at Wareham Street and if there is a way to make it easier to count with the contrast.

Tom explained the board gets cleaned periodically or replaced if needed. It will be cleaned so the counts can be done more easily.

b. It was determined the weather does not allow for river work at this time.

Ron added that himself and Tom did some minor weed removal from land at Wareham Street.

2. Bruce sat in on old DPW project meeting and reported there will be no building for at least six months or so. Currently just discussing options and planning. Bruce will be the contact person for future meetings that will impact the herring, or the herring run.

Ron noted that the Bascule Dam has been lowered and will remain lowered until further notice.

a. Bill mentioned weed removal at the fish ladder is needed.

The permit for the Ecoharvester was discussed, the permit is still active and was automatically extended due to COVID.

b. Tom was contacted by the Old Long Pond Association and gave them information about the Ecoharvester. Tom added that funds seem to be going to APC for studies, but no action is being taken.

Ron asked about Tom wanting to meet with Senators in person with plans. Tom agreed he does want paper copies made to be able to give to Senators and Representatives. Dave added that if we pay to print more plans we could use grant funding given for the project.

Tom made motion to have three copies of sediment trap plans printed to be given to local public officials.

Second by Bruce. Unanimous.

### **Communications and Bills**

Tom paid electric bill.

Thursday night (3/10), Taunton River Watershed has meeting where Ron will be speaking.

Dave, Tom, and Ron will be touring the River Alliance Group around the Nemasket River to show the ladder and herring on 4/13. (They will also be explaining sediment trap issue)

Tom mentioned that the Division of Marine Fisheries had a discussion led by Brad Chase on the topic of dam removals at local rivers. And an overall discussion about ongoing sightings of various fish and beavers. The potential to harvest herring was also discussed and two towns that were possibly requesting to harvest.

Tom made motion to adjourn.

Second by Dave. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

