



Bank Building, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346

Received

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Lakeville Town Clerk

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Location: Middleboro Town Hall Auditorium (upstairs)

Meeting called to order at 7:20 PM

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

Absent: Ron Burgess

Observers Present:

Visitors:

### **Unanticipated:**

Tom mentioned the new signage installed at the runs indicating no herring harvesting allowed and inquired which organization was responsible for the install.

Dave thought perhaps the EPO based on his email conversation and it was noted these signs are not at other river locations such as Vaughan Street.

### **New Business:**

1. Motion by Dave to accept the minutes of the April 6th meeting

Second: Tom. Unanimous.

2. Brad explained history of Ecoharvester and how the Herring Commission came to be in contact with the company.

Brad explained the process and details of the Ecoharvester project. The Ecoharvester pulls weeds and does not cut them and is able to do a lot of the labor so no manual labor is needed.

Brad and the Commission has been in contact with the Ecoharvester company for five years, the cost is \$3,500 for the first day and \$3,000 for each day after.

Although we have a small window of time that we can allow the Ecoharvester in the river, the company is available during this window.

Depending on where the weeds can be dumped the projected timeframe could vary.

Tom confirmed that the Cooter expert (John Crane) will be in a canoe in front of the Ecoharvester to ensure no Cooter's are harmed during the project. And mentioned that water levels will need to be monitored leading up to the project.

Brad suggested we choose the furthest possible date in August so we can wait out the federal permit.

Dave suggested a closer date would be better in case the water level is too low, we can move the date out further.

Brad mentioned a weekday would be better to avoid higher number of kayakers on the weekend.

Krill asked is hand pulling the weeds would be an option for a back-up plan.

Brad explained there is too much to consider hand pulling as an option.

Further discussion of Ecoharvester process and date considerations.

Brad made a motion to lock-in August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> as dates to give the company.

Second: Tom. Unanimous.

Dave made a motion for Tom and Ron to contact person involved in the final paper needed for federal permit and let them know we committed to August dates. And to confirm with Freitas' dumping site for weeds.

Second: Krill. Unanimous.

3. Dave spoke about books that the Commission received from Rhode Island DEM and suggested we donate them to the Middleboro and Lakeville libraries. There are five sets of fishes books, and six sets of dragonfly and damselfly books.

Brad made a motion to donate two to Lakeville Library, two to Middleboro Library, two to Lakeville High School, two to Middleboro High School, and keep one with the Commission.

Second: Krill. Unanimous.

4. Emily explained email that was received from Lakeville Town Hall asking for mission statement for Herring Commission website.

Dave gave Commission objectives to Emily to pass along.

Tom suggested adding the Herring Commission Facebook page to the website as well.

## **Old Business**

1. a. Tom gave update of river conditions, we received more than 2 inches of rain in the past two weeks and believes river is higher than it has been in the past two weeks. Water level is at a good point and it will be damned up in June.

Brad mentioned seeing 100 fall backs and there was further discussion about fall backs.

b/c. Dave discussed various river work needed at both Wareham Street and Oliver Mill.

Brad will be using his pole saw to help with river maintenance and will notify Commission when he plans on doing the work.

Dave made motion to:

1. Remove sand bags/boards at channel D
2. Replace former boards even with top of channel D
3. Remove plywood blocking channels E-H

4. Notify Conservation Commission of this action and our goal of bringing the Oliver Mill Park flow as close as possible to 2018 conditions.
5. Leave unblocked unless fish become trapped.

Discussion of the motion and possible timeframe to get work done.

Tom explained he did not agree with removing the plywood but was in agreement with all other suggestions.

Second: Brad

Tom wanted to amend the motion so plywood would not be removed.

Further discussion about motion on the floor.

Dave removed his motion from the floor.

Brad made motion to remove sandbags before the end of June and at that time inspect the other channels and plywood and make adjustments after sandbags were removed.

Second: Tom Unanimous.

2. a. Ecoharvester was discussed earlier.

b. No new updates on sediment trap project. Agenda item will be changed to 'APC update' since it is now out of our hands.

### **Communications and Bills**

1. Tom presented electric bill as part of the line-item expenditures.

Motion by Tom to adjourn. Second: Dave: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM