

MEETING MINUTES

Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission

6/4/19 Meeting called to order at 7:12 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, Janet MacCausland.

Visitors: Bruce Spooner.

Unanticipated:

1. Lakeville Town Meeting approved the \$5000.00 line item funding request.

New Business:

1. Motion by Tom to accept the minutes of the April 4 meeting. Second: Ron. Unanimous.
(There was no May meeting)
2. Dave C. received an email from Rep. Norman Orrall that the House passed \$35,000.00 for Nemasket River weed control work. The measure must be passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Tom spoke with Rep. Orrall and the money was passed to improve the flow. No more specifics were forthcoming yet. It was noted that Mitzi Hollenbeck, Lakeville Selectman, had written a grant request for a river study.
3. Janet presented two proposals for informational signs for either the kiosk or the stand alone signboards. The cost estimate for a 20x30 on aluminum backing is \$150.00. Discussion involved wording and using the signs as in a stand alone or being placed in the kiosk. We had already voted a stand alone sign for the second stand. Motion by Ron to accept 'design # 3'. Second: Brad. Unanimous. Wording and location will be held for further discussion. Janet was commended for an excellent job.
4. Brad proposed the purchase of a drone. He noted that we paid \$350.00 for a drone flight as part of the permit process. SRPEDD has also used a drone to survey from the Assawompset dam to Bridge St. He proposed seeking advice from MS Aerial on spec's. We could use the drone anytime we want to survey whatever we want. Any such purchase would have to go before Selectmen. Discussion also involved allowing police and/or fire to use the drone if needed.

5. The Middleborough Town Manager requested goals from the Commission for the next fiscal year that can be incorporated into the town plan. Motion by Ron to pass along goals as discussed. Second: Tom. Unanimous.

Old Business:

1.
 - a. Water levels are high. Weeds are growing.
 - b. Stocking by RIDEM and DMF was completed.
 - c. No herring were seen in the river recently. Adults seen on the Great Quitticas side of the causeway at the culvert. As if they are afraid to cross.
 - d. Fish ladder maintenance should be scheduled.
 - e. Suggested to clear the top of the Wareham St. ladder. Very muddy and weedy.
2. River survey trip on Sunday 5/26/19 revealed high water and high weed growth above Old Bridge St. No weed growth below. Good water currently over the Rt. 495 sandbar. The original river channel below Vaughn St. was very weedy with much (believed to be) fanwort. Several Red-Bellied Cooters were seen.
3. Project updates:
 - a. Elyse from Outback sent a pre-notice to Natural Heritage. Ron and Tom met them in the Westborough office and discussed the Red-Bellied Cooters. If the state agrees with our plans it goes to the federal level. Steve Hurley (MF&W) was concerned about ongoing maintenance. John Crane (the Cooter guru) wants observers at the barge and offload area to scoot any Cooters back in the water. The state requires someone from a trained observer list, which will cost for someone on the list. Crane, of course, is on the list and estimated \$1800 for pre and post activity work. We will try to get pro-bono. DMF suggests working the first two weeks of August.
 - b. The Oliver Mill kiosk is mostly rebuilt. We need to determine how much is left of the grant money and what to do with it.
 - c. Ron attended the pre-construction meeting re: the next phase of Oliver Mill work by the town. Our focus is controlling water flow. The contract engineer talked of raising the B-channel dam, which none of us had heard of before.
 - d. The sand trap preliminary work is ongoing with SRPEDD.

Communications and Bills

1. Financial roll ups were received.
2. The light and electric box at the Wareham St. kiosk was repaired by MG&E. Ron will send a thank you letter.

Motion to adjourn by Tom. Second: Dave C. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.