

**Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 22 2023 (Nauset Room and via Zoom)**

Attendees: Judith Bruce, Carol Etzold, Ed Hafner, Mary Griffin, Carolyn Kennedy, Richard Levy, Robert Mullin and Judy Scanlon (Chair)

Regrets: Valerie May

Other: Michael Herman, Select Board Liaison

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.

The Chair called the meeting open at 10:00 AM.

2. May 8, 2023 Town Meeting, and May 16, 2023 Annual Election/Ballot Questions-Brief Summary of Results.

The Chair thanked those who spoke in support of the various Committee related Town Warrant Articles, with good outcomes for Phase 3 Sewer and the Herring Restoration Projects. Committee members thanked those involved in pond and estuary sampling, as well as the herring visual count volunteers, since having water quality and herring count data strengthened the cases for both.

3. The 2006 Orleans Comprehensive Plan, Planned Update/Revisions-As it Relates to Our Committee Work: Review goals and policies, determine which are still relevant, which can be removed, and identify any new goals. Focus on Natural Resources Section 5 (compiled our comments) Note: Some other sections of the Plan may also apply and may be reviewed later.

The Chair said that she believes that the Comprehensive Plan Revision process will be ongoing in 2023 and that as a Committee we are to focus on the Natural Resources section, as well as review other sections for any missing goals and policies. The request from George Meservey on behalf of the Planning Board was to focus on what should be added and what no longer applies. Judith suggested that we look at our Committee charge, as well as our mission and goals, in providing our recommendations.

There was an extended discussion of what should be added or updated. Carolyn noted that there was no mention of sewers and nitrogen control under the policies, nor was there mention of the pond and lake Management Plans which were developed after 2006. Committee members agreed that the response should remain somewhat generic; the details to be worked out later. There was an agreement that references to any federal, regional and state water quality regulations should be included, as well as those responsible for enforcement.

The Clerk took detailed notes on the discussion and will summarize that discussion to support the Committee's response.

Action:

1. The Clerk will compile notes from the discussion today, and then work with Carolyn Kennedy and Ed Hafner on a draft of our response. Once completed, the Clerk will distribute the draft to the individual Committee members for a quick review and incorporate their feedback. Then the sub-committee will meet again to complete our Committee's response. The Chair will submit that response to George Meservey for submission to the Planning Board.

4. 2023 Season Freshwater Lake and Pond WQ Sampling, and Summer Estuary WQ Monitoring-Planning Updates. (NOTE: This will be a recurring agenda item during the advance planning, and active water quality monitoring time periods).

Freshwater

The Chair thanked all the volunteers who participated in the April Pond sampling. The Chair and Carolyn noted that the sampling sheets and bottles and the equipment should be ready for the next sampling in August.

The Chair noted that the existing Orleans Freshwater Pond/Lake monitoring Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) will need to be revised this year due to changes in SMAST personnel and any new equipment.

Estuary

Judith noted that we now have all the sampling dates from Dr. Duncanson. Recruitment has been a challenge to cover all four days; there is some overlap between estuary and the APCC cyanobacterial sampling. Judith is working with Jamie Dumas of OPC to coordinate the samplings.

She reviewed the challenges she has with recruiting both boat captains and enough crew members. She also reported that the in-person certification training date will be held on the 21st of June from 5:00-6:30 PM, or can be taken online any time before the actual sampling on sampling day. Committee members agreed that the water quality lab should open around 7:30 AM and close at 9:30 AM to login and organize samples for transport to the lab. Judith will send out the final list of site samplers and lab volunteers as soon it is complete.

5. Wastewater Management Advisory Committee-MFWQ Committee Representative Report-Judith Bruce (WMAC Rep.).

The Chair thanked the Committee for the work of the WMAC regarding the passage at the Town Meeting of Phase 3. Judith stated that there was no information of sufficient importance to need to update the Committee this month.

6. Pilgrim Lake Herring Run-Spring 2023 Volunteer Visual Herring Count Program- Count Season Progress Update (Volunteer Coordinator Rich Levy).

The Chair thanked Rich Levy the volunteer coordinator for his contributions this year. The Chair reported that the Herring visual counts (going upstream) have been higher this year than last year: 2171 vs. about 1500. Volunteer coverage has been good. Counting will stop on May 31st.

The MA Department of Natural Resources is pulling the video counter unit out on May 22nd as there are no more herring coming into the Lake.

The Chair reported that Brad Chase of the MA Division of Marine Fisheries asked if Pilgrim Lake could be added to their water quality monitoring list as part of their river herring nursery and habitat assessment data collection. Samples will be taken two to three times per month (May-September) at the same sites and depths we currently sample. The Chair traded QAPP plans with the Division and she reported that SMAST will be doing the water quality sample analysis for DMF.

Related to the Town Warrant Article 23. Fund Pilgrim Lake Fish Ladder Rehabilitation Project, Mary drafted and read a note of support for the project from the Committee at the Town Hall on May 8th. Videos and photos taken at the herring run by Ed and Judy in support of the warrant were posted on the Town website prior to the Town meeting.

Judith reported that a Pilgrim Lake beach rehabilitation project is being considered by ConsCom next week, (a one-time weed removal) which would be planned to take place in the winter. The hope would be that subsequent to this treatment, the Department of Natural Resources would only need to do a manual clean up annually.

7. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2023.

The draft minutes were approved as amended by several Committee members. Motion to approve by Carolyn and seconded by Judith. Vote: 5-0-2

8. Consider/Add Topics for Future Agendas - Estuary and FW Pond Data Summary Update and Citizen/User Friendly Data Presentation, Proposed Pesticide Home Rule Petition Article (review and compile comments/questions), etc.

The above topics will be considered for future Committee agendas as necessary. The Chair asked if there were additional items the Committee members would like to add at this time. Ed mentioned that a discussion of public education on water quality should be added in the near future.

9. Announcements

There were none.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:59 AM. Approved 7-0-0.

Future MFWQC Meeting Dates: YR 2023- 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27, 12/18.

These minutes were approved by the Committee on June 26, 2023. Vote: 7-0-0


06/27/23