

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
April 27, 2016
Town Hall

Present: Barbara Austin, Jacob Puffer, Tom Siggia, Zack Dixon,, Rebecca Taylor,

Regrets: Jim O'Connell, John Duane

Others in Attendance: Andy Koch (constable), John Mankevetch (assistant constable), Fred Richard, Justin Dalby, Michelle Insley, Helen Miranda Wilson, Martha Craig, Gary Joseph, John Portnoy, Barbara Brennessel, Don Palladino, Pat Woodbury

Meeting called to order, 7:05 p.m.

1. FRIENDS OF THE HERRING RIVER

The President of the Friends of Herring River Don Palladino gave us an update on the project.

Key points:

- The Final Environmental Impact Report will be published in June / July. (It has been published and is available through the Friends of Herring River website.)
- The dike will be replaced and the river will be restored incrementally.
- Submission of permits for the project will begin in the fall and construction on roads could start in 2019.
- Most sediment is expected to travel up stream, and thus will not effect downstream oyster beds.

Fred - When will the actual start of allowing water flow happen, 2018? Don, I don't think we are that far along.

Helen, Are you coordinating with the dredging project? Don - I sit in on their meetings and take info back to the Restoration Committee. Reason being, I would like to know if there is the possibility of using the dredged material for our project (on the river, or stockpile it).

Barbara A. - When the road is raised, will they put in new catch basins?

Martha - The engineers are committed to improving the drainage from what it is now (country drainage). Don, we will look at the catch basins at the intersection of Hopkins and High Toss to see how they are working.

Barbara A. - How is the tree removal going to work. Don - It will be part of a vegetation plan that is not yet complete. Much of the property is under the Seashore, so they will decide what to do. Also, some private property owners will have to make some decisions about having the project remove vegetation or not.

Barbara A. - What happened at town meeting last night regarding High Toss Rd. It was passed by about 2/3 voice vote. Barbara A., so now that we know the road will not be maintained, will it be lowered. Don P. - The selectmen have not yet decided.

John P. - best for the marsh if the road is scraped down to marsh level.

Barbara A. What about DDT and other pesticides that were used in the past? John P., we have not found high levels. There have been high levels of arsenic and lead, but the project could help with that.

John P. They are doing pre-restoration water sampling of things like ammonium nitrate (can cause algae bloom) so we can compare results in specific areas of concern during the project.

John P. handed out a chart from 2005 that shows F. Coliform levels from upstream of the dyke to egg island.

Gary Joseph - Wants to discuss the mouth of the Herring River. Getting this open is a driving force of the project. The scientists say that it is possible. Shellfishing is a natural resource and this project can not do any harm to any natural resource . . . it is documented and in writing.

Barbara - Why was the area around the dyke so good for shellfishing in the 80's? Is it because the dyke was broken. John P. - Yes, probably was one reason. Also, DMF was not permitted.

sampling then. There probably was high fecal coliform then, too. But, it may have been better because the dyke was broken.

Helen - can you tell them about the fish? Mumachaug's follow the flood tide to get on the marsh surface where they eat. They can survive in the mud through low tide. They feed on mosquito larvae so they are a very important predator. They are absent now because the water quality is so bad.

Barbara A. Are the herring having a tough time getting upriver? Don, they are getting through all the way to Gull Pond. Barbara B. I don't know how they are getting through the dyke, some have bruises and lesions. We are working now with Nauset High School project to monitor at which times the herring get through the dyke.

Barbara A. has it been decided if there will be a bridge across High Toss? Don P. The petition at town meeting to have a bridge did not pass. We are now looking at an unrestricted flow across high toss. Helen - It looks like there is a good possibility that the marsh is just going to go across there and access will be from the new Chequesett Dyke. We want this project to happen really well, 80% of this is above High Toss Rd. An obstruction there may impede water flow.

Rebecca - Anything of archeological interest? John P. They are wrapping up a study now that includes paper study and that samples anywhere that ground will be broken.

2. DISCUSSION OF CULTCHING

Barbara A. - The seashore does not want cultching up the river because they are doing water monitoring for the HRRP. Don P., I have spoken with George Price and Harry Terkanian and they are aware of the concern and the existence of the town's right to propagate

Harry said that it can not come up before town meeting.

Andy said that he will ask Harry what he should do. Helen, worst case is that you will have to hold off cultching on three spots.

Helen said that she thinks that the study may be over.

Barbara A. said that it is very important that the Seashore does not think that they can prevent us from propagation. We need to maintain any rights that we have.

Barbara B. This came about because even if cultching is propagation it still needs to be permitted.

Pat W. DMF is aware of and approves of the clutching activities that we are doing.

Barbara B. I think there has to be a meeting and some consensus reached.

Andy - We had a meeting and the we came to an agreement with the Park Service.

Barbara B. It needs to be in writing.

Pat B. Is there a permit for cultching?

Andy -no.

Helen - Yes, Hillary got it.

John - It is a State requirement. That was a fill permit from DEP. You need a permit from the state to cultch in any area.

John - Pre restoration monitoring is basically done. There needs to be a meeting with he Seashore that includes the higher ups and the researchers so we can all accommodate each others needs.

Don P. - This is time sensitive because it is soon time to start cultching. When do you usually start? Andy - I'd like to start the second week of May.

Barbara B. - There should be a meeting with Seashore soon so it can go to ConsCom for the permit.

Helen suggested that one of SAB members should be at the Seashore meeting.

Gary J. - It is essential that we learn to cooperate with the Park Service (HRRC, SAB, Wellfleet Shellfish Dept., and all others related to Wellfleet Harbor).

4. BEACH CLEAN-UP

This Saturday is beach clean-up.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUE, MAY 17TH AT 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.