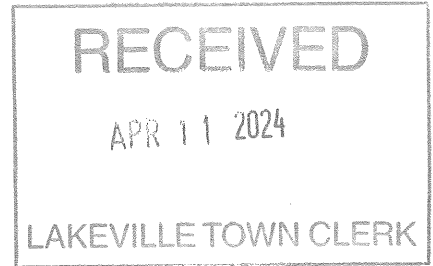




Bank Building, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346



## MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2023

Location: MCAMM Studio, 1 Main Street

Meeting 7:00 PM

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

Absent: Ron Burgess and Brad Day

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

### **Unanticipated:**

### **New Business:**

1. Tom informed the commission of a request from Patrick McGee of the Rhode Island Division of Environmental Management for two thousand herring.

Dave made a motion to provide the herring to be collected at their convenience of the RI DEM based on the availability of fish with at least two days advanced notice.

Tom seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

2. Tom contacted Brad Chase and John Shepard of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to sample the herring population.

Tom made the motion to allow the Mass. DMF to collect a sample population of the herring based on the availability of fish.

Bruce seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Old Business**

1. River Conditions and Maintenance needs:
  - a. Dave reported that eleven inches of water are going over the top board and did not think it was deterring the fish.

Tom documented that all boards were removed from the top of the run the end of February in order to insure adequate flow of water, despite the water level at Assawompset Pond being high and the flood plain being full. This confirms the problem of poor drainage in the Nemasket River.

Dave noted large amount of fish being seen in Oliver Mills Complex  
Tom saw varying levels of fish in the river with no significant appearance in the pond complex

2 .Project updates:

- a. Dave notice the plexiglass at the Wareham Street kiosk was loose. Bruce volunteered to secure it with glazing points.
- b. Dave informed the commission that the old DPW site is going to be used as a staging area for proposed Wareham Street road work.

3. APC update:

- a. Dave attended a meeting of the Assawompsett Dam Management group. It was noted that the current pond level was 54.3 with a recommended level of 51.3
- b. Dave attended the Assawompsett Pond Management Group. SRPEDD made recommendations to improve water quality.
- c. There was discussion of several ground water monitoring wells

4. Eco-Harvester and weed removal update:

- a. Tom contacted John Crane from Eco-Harvester and reserved the first two weeks of August for use of the Eco-Harvester in the Nemasket River. It is still necessary to get approval from the National Heritage group.
- b. Dave made a proposal to rescind the requirement for a turtle expert for the Eco-Harvester project for the following reasons:
  - It covers the same region and downstream as the project in 2021.
  - The 2021 project used a John Crane as an expert
  - No turtles, fish or other wildlife were seen in the path of the Eco-Harvester or seen pulled onto the machine
  - No turtles or other wildlife were seen when the weed piles were deposited on shore and raked out.
  - Any person has the ability to detect turtles or other wildlife and return it to the river.

- Therefore, no reason to expend funds when no danger to turtles or other wildlife was detected in 2021.
- c. Dave also discussed the existence of moneys allocated for weed removal work and recommended contacting the Middleborough and Lakeville Town Treasurers to ensure that unused funds be carried over into next year.  
Tom offered to contact the treasurers on order to ensure that the money is carried over.

**Communications and Bills:**

- Dave reminded the commission of the canoe race on April 27<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The commission discussed the Herring Festival on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom discussed a communication from Abigail Archer concerning a workshop on small fishways to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Bruce and Tom expressed interest in attending.
- While Ron Burgess is away, Dave will be responsible for maintaining board height in the fish ladder.

At 7:45 p.m., David made motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tom seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote