

## Minutes – first meeting of the Hinkley's Pond Association

Meeting Date: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Harwich Community Center, 7; 30 pm

Ralph Anderson introduced himself, Jane Anderson who was signing in people in the back, and Robyn Michaels who was taking notes.

Ralph explained that he contacted all residents within 600 feet of the pond via mail in the Spring and from the response to his mailing he e-mailed everyone to invite them to this first meeting.

Everyone was then asked to place a tack on the poster sized map of the pond to indicate their home; introduce themselves; and say a word or two about their use and history with the pond. We were well represented by both full time and part time residents and long time and newer families. One thing that was abundantly clear was that everyone greatly enjoyed the pond and that **everyone was greatly concerned about the health** of the pond – especially given last year's closure for several weeks in July. It was also noted that several people in attendance had been part, either current or past, of taking measurements of the pond. Additionally a couple people are or were on town boards or the Cape Cod Commission.

Ralph clarified that though there were multiple spellings of the ponds name, "**Hinkleys Pond**" (no apostrophe) was the most-used official spelling and we would use it as well.

Several facts were presented about the pond:

- spring fed

  - 2 streams feed into the pond

  - there are 3 bogs on the pond; 2 active and one abandoned and filled in with vegetation

  - almost 30 ft deep

  - 28 ft above sea level

  - largest pond completely in Harwich

  - classified by the state as a Great Pond, which means that the state department of Environmental Protection has oversight of the pond

  - one of 10 Harwich ponds being tested, and **the largest of least healthy of the tested ponds**

  - classified as an eutrophic lake, which means that there is a high degree of nutrients and vegetation and the amount of oxygen available is decreasing.

  - Decreasing oxygen effects many things including the fish life that exists in the pond and the likelihood of algae blooms. Etc.

Ralph presented the 10 year history of taking measurements and showed through graphs the declining health of the pond. This information is available at [www.hwqtf.com/hinkley](http://www.hwqtf.com/hinkley). He also explained the natural life cycle of a pond, about an annual inversion of the water, and the impact that excess phosphorous and nitrogen have

on Hinkleys Pond.

In order for any treatment/remediation to be actively applied to the pond a **study must be conducted** to find, among other things, all sources of nitrogen and phosphorous entering the pond.

Additionally, the flow of water entering the pond needs to be examined. The association can work with the town on to ensure the study is funded.

Peter deBakker presented a draft **mission statement** for the Hinckleys Pond Association.

### **Introduction**

The idea to form the Hinkleys Pond Association (HPA) originated after a algae bloom closed the pond for a couple of weeks in the summer of 2009. It suddenly occurred to a number of us that we cannot take the beauty and quality of this water body for granted. Things can change overnight, usually for a short duration, but the possibility exists that, without a more pro-active stance the Pond may be damaged more permanently. Some degree of water quality monitoring exists. The Town of Harwich, using volunteers, takes eight samples in the summer months to assess the condition of the Pond. However a more proactive stance is highly desirable to stay ahead of the situation. The following "Mission Statement" hopes to define the HPA's role.

### **Mission Statement**

The owners of property around Hinckleys Pond and other friends of the pond, organized as the Hinkleys Pond Association (HPA) would like to play an active role in support of the Town of Harwich's efforts to maintain and improve the quality of Hinkleys Pond.

Aspects of this role include:

Act as a liaison with the Town (Harbor Master, Conservation Commission, Health Department) for activities related to Hinkleys Pond

Educate the property owners around Hinkleys Pond with respect to pollution, fertilizer run-off, septic issues, etc.

Maintain the quality of the shore line, to preserve its beauty

Establish a positive relationship with the Cranberry Bog owners, to establish an appreciation for each other's positions and points of view

Establish guidelines and protocols to monitor the quality of the Pond.

He stressed that the tone of the statement was one of cooperation and suggested that we worked cooperatively with the multiple town departments that have oversight of the pond and the cranberry bog owners. The Mission Statement was distributed to attendees and read out loud.

**Treatments.** Two ponds in Harwich have gone through the study process and have now been treated. Long Pond (which is also in Brewster) was treated with Alum, a non toxic additive which combines with phosphorous in the water making it unavailable as a "fertilizer" -- which slows down vegetation growth. Skiniquit Pond, a much smaller pond in South Harwich, purchased a solar -powered machine called Solar Bees, which keeps the water stirred-up decreasing the chance for algae blooms. Both treatments seem to be working. The Solar Bees don't seem to be an answer for our pond because we

would need eight of them – cost prohibitive at \$35-40K each – and the pond must be available for seaplanes to land safely.

**Organizational structures** Ralph spoke about the different types that exist and some pros and cons about each.

**Informal;** there is no paperwork or fees but officers could be subject to law suits.

Contributions are not tax-deductable, and investment income is taxable.

**Incorporation;** legal incorporation papers must be filed with the state and with an initial fee of \$200 and a smaller amount annually. Designed to protect individuals from legal issues. Contributions would not be tax exempt.

**Nonprofit Incorporation:** incorporation papers must be filed with the state, initial fee is \$500 with smaller amount annually. Protects individuals from law suits. Contributions are deductible as charitable donations, by the donors. More complex reporting requirements.

Two attendees volunteered to work on a committee to make recommendations about organizational structure. If anyone knows a lawyer we can approach to help us better understand our options, please e-mail Ralph at [rpanders@Comcast.net](mailto:rpanders@Comcast.net), or call at 508 432 1957..

Initial **dues** were announced -- \$25 per family and checks should be made out to Jane Anderson (26 Catharine Rose Rd, Harwich, MA 02645)