

**Hinckleys Pond Association
Annual Meeting
June 26, 2021**

Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the Hinckleys Pond Association was called to order at 10:06 am by President Deb Selkow as she welcomed approximately 30 participants gathered and an additional 10 participants attending via Zoom.

Thank you for hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting was extended to Bill and Robin Crowell. Also, a thank you was extended to Jocelyn Russell for managing the Zoom technology and Linda Underwood for taking notes.

Welcome was extended to all attending and a special welcome to new participants. Jeff Marselle introduced himself as he and his wife, Joanne, are interested in getting involved with their neighborhood.

Old Business:

Acceptance of 2020 Minutes – Jane King moved the 2020 minutes be accepted as written. Susan Hollis seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Joan Sacchetti reported that HPA started the year with a balance of \$3,134. After donating \$500 each to the Harwich Conservation Trust, WeCan and the Food Pantry and operating expenses, HPA has a balance of \$1,437. The Association had no income last year as dues had been waived.

President's Report – President Deb Selkow expressed how good it was to be able to gather together this year after a year like no other. Last summer was a year of challenge but life went on and people found refuge here on the pond. Some spent more time here as parents worked remotely and children attended classes on line. Last summer instead of large block parties, small outside gatherings were encouraged. The Annual Boat Parade was held but no after parade party. Full moon paddles continued. We found ways to gather safely and stay in community.

Communication is important and the Pond Association Directory has been updated and a thank you extended to Jane Temple. Anyone with any changes in contact information is invited to contact either Deb or Jane. Our website, managed by Jane Anderson, is always being added to and people are invited to check that out at Hinckleyspondassociation.com.

The leadership model for the Association has been modified to utilize less volunteers. This has been necessary as fewer volunteers are available. The board met in 2020 to develop a model that would be more sustainable as we move forward. The new model retains the Officers of President, V.P., Treasurer and Clerk. It modifies the four-person Board Members to three Committee Chairs – Water (Stan Selkow), Communications (Deb Selkow), and Social (Anne Gaudet).

Harwich Bog Preservation Project is moving forward and the HPA is playing an integral role in helping the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) make this a reality. The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts has purchased the property to keep it from going on the open market. They will hold the property to allow HCT time to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property. The goal is \$800,000, which must be raised by December 31, 2021. Currently the HCT has a commitment from a donor that once \$360,000 has been raised the donor will match contributions up to \$220,000. Grant applications are being sought in addition. This project is important not only for walking paths and conservation but for the water quality of our pond and the whole Monomoy lens. This project is important to HPA as it is in our neighborhood and will directly affect the water quality of our pond. It is in our interest to support this project.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Social Committee:

Social Calendar- Anne Gaudet announced the social calendar for 2021:

July 13 th , 5:00pm	Red River Beach Gathering (bring chair, beverage and snack)
July 31 st , 4:00pm	HCT Bog Fund Raiser, Cranberry Bog
August 21 st , 5:00pm	Block Party, TBA
Sept. 4 th , 10:00am	Boat Parade and Party
July 24 th , Aug. 22 nd , Sept 20	Full moon paddles (weather permitting)
Last Monday of each month	Book Group (contact Deb Selkow)

Information on all the above will be sent out prior to the event.

Block Captains- The Block Captains were thanked for their work in keeping the Directory up to date and welcoming new people to their neighborhoods.

The current Block Captains are-

- Joanna Hughes Azalea Drive
- Martha Crane Edward Road
- Susan Hollis Stanley Road
- Brian Archibald James Road
- Mike Bruchac Elizabeth Road
- Jane King Edith Grove
- Susan Cyr Wallace, Kevin, Marion Roads
- Linda Underwood Northeast Side of the Pond

Jenkins Bog Preservation Fund Raiser, July 31-Mel Brown Bride has volunteered to work with the HCT as a representative of the HPA on this Fund Raiser. The Brown family has donated funding for this event. The event will be held at the bog near the large barn on July 31st, 4 to 5:30pm. There will be appetizers and cranberry cookies and presentations. Presentations will include a historical perspective of farming the bog, the Monomoy Lens preservation and the Brown family plans for future preservation. A tour of the bog is also planned.

Anne reminded us that the health of our pond is important to all of us. Let us show our community how united HPA is in support of HCT purchasing the bog by having as close to 100% participation as possible.

Donation checks can be sent at any time directly to HCT with HPA in the subject line. Address to send checks is HCT, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, Ma 02661.

A request was made to authorize funding for the rental of chairs for the event to be funded by HPA. Peter DeBakker so moved and Mike Kemp seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Water Quality Committee:

Water Quality – Stan Selkow reported that while the initial water response to the alum treatment was excellent, reports in July and October of 2020 showed more phosphorous than expected. Exact causes are unknown but October is thought to be a result of the discharge following the cranberry bog harvest.

Sources of phosphorous have been legacy, the cranberry bog run-off, Long Pond, Seymour Pond, and us. It is a concern that we are causing some of this rise in phosphorous. It is for this reason

that it is important that all measures possible be considered when dealing with septic tank cleaning, lawn fertilization, road runoff, etc. Our website contains information on best practices including plants for near the water, product usage, etc.

Birds- We have a crowned night heron rookery on the Northeast side of the pond. Kingfishers have been spotted as have eagles.

Communications:

Website – Deb Selkow reiterated that our website contains good information on how to be a good steward to our pond. Town of Harwich reports on our pond can be found on our website as well as photos from past boat parades and newspaper articles. Personal narratives on living on the pond are encouraged and Jane Anderson will receive them and get them on the site.

State of the HPA: Deb Selkow asked the membership to consider-- is the HPA relevant and do we wish to continue as an organization? Is there a role for this association? The question is asked because to continue we need volunteer leaders.

We all love this pond and the lives that we have been able to live here on Hinckleys Pond. We have made friendships and raised families in this neighborhood. We have come together to advocate and work for the improved water quality. We have had success with the alum treatment in 2019. We paddle, swim and celebrate our rookery and bald eagles. We celebrate spring with the herring swimming up the Herring River and, in the winter, we watch the pond fill with ducks seeking refuge on our pond.

We have accomplished a lot since the HPA inception in 2011. Now ten years later what is our future?

The board has worked to streamline the leadership model but to continue we need volunteers. Scott Norum has volunteered to serve as Treasurer beginning in June, 2022. However, he is the only volunteer for a future officer position. The current leaders will complete their terms at our annual meeting in June 2022 and unless new leaders step up, we will no longer have an association. The decision is up to you.

Beginning in June, 2022 we need – President, V.P. and Clerk. Please consider taking that responsibility on for a one- or two-year term. If interested please contact Deb Selkow (debselkow@gmail.com)

Dues: Joan Sacchetti reminded the membership that this year dues will not be waived. Annual dues are \$20 per family. Joan will collect dues after the meeting or they can be sent to her at 2 Edward Road. Check made out to HPA

Future Votes: Voting is needed at times during the year. A recommendation was made from the board by Deb Selkow that the membership authorize on line voting should the need occur. Mike Kemp so moved with Matt Brown seconding the motion. Motion passed.

Questions and Answers:

- Susan Cyr asked if it is OK to add sand to the shoreline? Response was to ask the Harwich Conservation Commission if you have any questions. Past experiences adding sand has resulted in it being pretty quickly dispersed.
- Matt Brown suggested that the Communication Role be shared. He is willing to manage the website, newspapers and general PR
- Peter deBakker stated the association is important and needs to continue and a personal approach to securing volunteers is needed. He suggested a personal approach at the end of the meeting. The Leadership Council responded that personal calls and meetings have been held for over two years attempting to secure volunteers.

- Matt Brown volunteered to research lawn services that use best practices. Anyone with a lawn service that has good conservation practices is invited to contact Matt. He will place this info on our web site.
- Ruth Anderson Zabre volunteered to liaison with the HCT. She is unable to do it for this current project but would be willing to do so in the future.
- Liz Perry and Carl Olstrom introduced themselves. They are visiting as representatives of the Brewster Pond Coalition. Their coalition is working to improve the health of 18 ponds in Brewster and is working with University of New Hampshire to analyze their data. Brewster has had two major blooms this year. Liz and Carl found the meeting inspiring.
- Matt Brown asked if the HCT has sought support for the bog funding from the Rail Trail Association? The HCT is experienced working with all sorts of organizations, and it is assumed that Rail Trail is involved but it will be asked.
- Tammy DePasquale asked if HCT utilizes employer matching donations? Deb said she would explore.

Volunteer Solicitation: In follow-up to Pete deBakker's suggestion to have personal solicitation for volunteer positions, ten minutes was allocated for all present to mingle and discuss with their neighbors the need for their volunteer time. While everyone enjoyed talking, no volunteers came forward for leadership.

Meeting adjourned 11:28 am

Respectfully submitted, Linda Underwood