

Hinckley Pond Association (HPA)
Annual Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2022

Welcome/Introduction

- Deb called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and gave a big thank you to the HCT (Harwich Conservation Trust) for all they have done in helping us to preserve the bog.

HCT Guest Speaker

- Deb presented a \$500 donation to Mike Lach, Director of the HCT on behalf of the HPA. Mike thanked the HPA for all their work, rallying and inspiring the community and beyond to raise the funds to save the bog.
- Mike gave a brief update on the cranberry bog and what's next:
 - HCT is working on a plan for the ecological restoration of the property. This includes removing the sand to get closer to the existing groundwater and the natural wetland habitat (more marshland vegetation vs. the pitch pine that is starting to come up).
 - HCT is working with Cape Tech students and faculty on some of the environmental studies, including groundwater monitoring and data collection.
 - The Cold Brook restoration is the model that they will follow for the Hinckley project. (Check out HCT website for more details!)
 - Will move into permitting in 2023; 2-3 yrs from now will be the actual eco restoration process which will be dependent on funding at that point.
 - Ultimate goals are to enhance water quality, increase the natural habitat and improve the community user experience.
- Mike also shared other HCT news.
 - Updated everyone on the walk and wag event in May, which was a huge success.
 - Big effort to acquire 85 acres that would complete a parcel of nearly 400 acres of land (6 ponds district –interconnected trails to stop subdivisions and protect the land). It is a \$3m plan; two foundations have stepped forward in challenge gifts enabling HCT to fund an additional \$1m to the \$1m they already have so this would be \$1m left to raise.
- Q&A Session
 - There are eventual plans to build out the path from the bike path to the pond where it is eroding – that would be part of the eco restoration plan.
 - How much longer will the cranberries grow wild ? You probably have a couple of years left to harvest them yourselves and bake that bread and share it with neighbors....
 - Plan is to make part of the bog trail wheelchair accessible as part of the future design if feasible (currently doing so for part of the Cold Brook design).
 - And yes, also looking at adding a few benches throughout the bog path.

Old Business

- Treasurer report from Joan.
 - Started with \$1437. Took in \$740 in dues(37 households). Made a \$500 donation to HCT. Minor expense of chair rental last year for the Bog fundraising kickoff; misc tax filing expenses; ended year at \$1500.
- Stan Selkow, is the Chair of the Water Committee whose mission is stewardship of the pond.

- Thanks to Beth for pulling a really large branch out of the pond over the winter.
- Dead deer in the water off of Catherine Rose Rd. Town Officials wouldn't deal with it – the Lures took care of it. Thank you!!
- Bluebirds are back!
- Water testing – thanks to the Andersons and Beth Doherty!
- Stan shared the Wagner report. In summary, water clarity is still good from the alum treatment a few years ago. Clarity is always better in the winter and spring and not as clear in the summer but still good. Not sure what additional positive impact we might have now that cranberry bog is retired.

▪ ***BIG ASK – is anyone interested in joining Stan in this very important role?***

Deb's report on last summer

- Two block parties
- One full moon paddle (which was amazing!)
- Boat parade
- Beach picnic at Red River
- Block captains
- Fundraising event to save the bog. Huge thanks to Anne Gaudet and Mel Brown Bride. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped to make it happen.
- Contributed \$75k to the bog project last summer. Special thanks to Susan Hollis and her donation of paintings to generate some fun auction action and donations!
- Thanks to everyone who stepped up to keep the HPA leadership team going!

New Business/New Leadership team

President - Glenn Sutter

Treasurer - Scott Norum

Clerk - Susan Cyr

Social Committee - Ruth Anderson-Zabre

Water Committee - ***Stan needs someone to help!***

Communication – Deb Selkow

WE NEED A VP!! Glenn promises it's an easy job!!

Plans for THIS SUMMER:

A big thank you to the social committee! We have some seasoned veterans and new volunteers! (and they planned a fabulous summer kickoff social last night! Great job, great food, great company!)

- July 23 – Boat Parade; “Anything Goes” is the theme for the boat parade. Starts at 10am by the red cottage and ends with a social at Bill Crowell's house at 14 Edwards.
- Pop up beach party at Red River Beach (between Aug 8 and 12; date TBD; 5pm at the end of the beach) More detail to follow.
- Aug 25 – block party on Edith Grove starting at 5pm.
- July 13 and Aug 11 Full Moon paddles, weather permitting. Will paddle NW toward red cottage to face the sunset and then paddle in the other direction, toward the moon.

Where are the men on the social committee?? Come join us!!

Please be sure to see the handout sent under separate email of easy things that HPA residents can do to help improve pond quality. See you all on the pond or at some of our upcoming events!