

Hinkleys Pond Association Annual General Meeting
10.00am / Harwich Recreation Center
Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2016

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Co-Presidents Ralph Anderson and Stanley Selkow.

The Co-Presidents' report was delivered;

1. Update on water testing and water quality on the Pond indicates increasing levels of algae. Heinz Proft from the Town of Harwich is reviewing data and expects there will be a new algae bloom later this summer as conditions have been favorable. There is a risk of cyanobacteria which has a more significant harmful impact on the Herring River, town wells and the Town water supply in general. Water testing will continue throughout the summer. Data is available both on the HPA (<http://hinkleyspodassociation.com>) and the Harwich Town websites.
2. The Association retains its status as a (501) c3 tax-exempt organization. Therefore dues and other voluntary contributions made to the Association are fully tax deductible.
3. Update on public beach access to the Pond. Stanley Selkow reported on the ongoing activities around public access to the Pond, which as a Great Pond is required under Massachusetts law. The meeting was brought up to date on the efforts over the past year to gain support from various Town organizations to fund clearing and restitution of the public beach, and how that has been met with rejection or indifference from town authorities in general. After some discussion, it was agreed the HPA has done everything it can reasonably do to encourage Harwich to abide by its legal responsibility and that at this time further investment in time and money by the HPA was not likely to change the outcome.
 - a. A motion was made "That the meeting acknowledges that the Association has approached the Town of Harwich to encourage improvements to public access to Hinkleys Pond via the Town Beach as indicated in all Town maps. And that the Association has communicated the legal requirements placed on the town to provide public access. As the town, at this time, has been unwilling to grant the resources necessary to study and improve access, it is the opinion of this General Meeting that no further action be taken by the Association with respect to Public Access." – The motion passed unanimously.
4. Ralph Anderson provided a summary of current social activities held through the Association and how these activities had grown in number this past year, which is an encouraging sign for the future sustainability of the Association.
5. Boat Parade Report: The 2016 annual boat parade was held on the Saturday preceding Labor Day and was another success. The 2017 parade will be held on the same day (Saturday before Labor Day), however there remains a need for a venue. Offers and suggestions are being solicited by the sub-committee. The location should include a place to dock and pull-up boats.

6. Nominating Committee Report: Mike O'Halloran reported on current terms ending for the Board of Directors and nominations/interest in serving. BoD terms up for consideration were; Ralph Anderson (not standing for re-election), Mike O'Halloran, Ruth Anderson-Zabre (standing for re-election) and a new candidate for BoD was Joan Sacchetti. All three candidates were unanimously elected to serve until 2019. Elections for Officers to be held during the BoD meeting to follow on from the General Meeting.

II. New Business

1. A discussion was held regarding the algae bloom risk and associated impact of cyanobacteria on water quality and safety. Updates were provided to the membership regarding the current testing and the need to keep authorities at both Town and State level apprised of changes in water quality and/or blooms. It was agreed the Association should continue to gather information and actively lobby for the improvement of water quality within the Pond and associated water shed.
2. A discussion was held regarding the establishment of improved communication and PR by the Association with two primary objectives; Increasing Association visibility and membership; providing more vigorous outreach and communication on the pond's significance to the area and its health to help drive policy.
 - a. A motion was made "To direct the BoD to convene a sub-committee of interested Association members interested in driving forward the communications and PR for the Association. The motion passed unanimously. (The BoD subsequently convened the sub-committee which will report back with initial suggestions by mid-August 2016).
3. Use of Association email member list. A discussion was held regarding the use of member email addresses and protection of privacy. It was agreed all association communication should utilize the "blind copy" capability to avoid advertising all member email addresses. In addition it was encouraged that other forms of communication and engagement should be continued and expanded, such as a book club, the "Angie's List" of local information within the membership and the website. Suggestions were made to consider a forum on the website and perhaps a Facebook page which might be attractive alternatives to some if not all members. The general consensus was to seek a balance between active "opt-in" member engagements, without over sharing email addresses or using Association email groups for non-Pond Association matters.

III. Conclusion and Thanks

Before closing the Annual General Meeting for 2016, a motion of formal thanks was proposed to acknowledge the incredible work in founding and stewarding the growth and purpose of the Association by Ralph and Jane Anderson. To acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Ralph for his leadership and thanks to Jane for her current and continued support for the Association and in particular role running the website. The motion passed with unanimous support.

Board Meeting of the Hinkleys Pond Association held after AGM
July 30, 2016

1. A quorum of BoD members being present Co-President Ralph Anderson called the BoD meeting to order.
2. The primary purpose of the meeting being to Nominate and elect new Officers to replace departing officers Ralph and Jane Anderson. The two vacant Officer roles being Co-President and Treasurer.
3. Ruth Anderson-Zabre was nominated to be the new Co-President and was unanimously approved.
4. Joan Sacchetti (new Board Member) was nominated to serve as Treasurer and was unanimously approved.
5. The BoD unanimously agreed to support to creation of a new Communication and Public Relations sub-committee, made up of Association members. The sub-committee will gather suggestions and proposals for BoD consideration prior to action being taken. Co-President Ruth Anderson-Zabre will be on the sub-committee and act as liaison between the sub-committee and the BoD.
6. Meeting was adjourned.