



Meeting Minutes
Weir River Estuary Park
Committee
Thursday March 26, 2020
Remote Meeting via Zoom/Hingham

*This is a Tri-Town Committee, appointed by the Boards of Selectmen for Cohasset, Hingham and Hull, not a non-profit Watershed Association. Formed in 2002 approved in 2005, the goals of the WREP Committee are; to **Preserve** the rare and idyllic setting, **Expand** public access and low impact recreational opportunities, **Protect** the historical and geological integrity, **Protect** and restore natural resources and biological diversity, **Conserve** a contiguous corridor of open space and healthy habitats, **Develop** educational opportunities and foster stewardship, **Establish** Community support for land and estuarine habitat protection and maintain working relationships with Town Selectmen, Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards and Advisory, Open Space and Harbor Development committees, local Land Trusts, Land preservation organizations, and related regional state and federal agencies.*

1. Call to Order by Patti Coyle (Hingham), Dick Avery (Cohasset), Sharon Allen (Hingham), Tom Bell (Cohasset; joined the mtg about 4:55). Guests: Hull residents Don Kidston (Hingham Land Conservation Trust (LCT) member interested to join), Judeth Van Hamm, Scott Plympton. The meeting commenced at 4pm. Minutes from the previous meeting on 1/15/20 at the Cohasset Senior Center were approved for posting. Patti chaired the meeting and Sharon agreed to produce the minutes.

2. Brief Updates

Cohasset:

- a. Tom Bell reported fish count at Foundry Pond starts 4/1/20 and goes through 4/30/20. He also shared the need for more counters, time slots available and currently has 10 volunteers. Tom has created a phone app to make counting easier.
- b. Spring clean-up and 50th Earth Day Anniversary 4/25/20. Straits Pond will provide a dumpster, there will be no cookout due to Covid-19. Plastic bags may be obtained at Wadley Park 150 Atlantic Ave & Estuary Center.

Hull:

- c. Don K. said clean-up at new trail behind Avalon start at the last apartment is needed. Judeth updated us end of Richards Rd. is not going to Town mtg. Lofchee discussion fought too long looking for new access from Eastman Road. James owner of Suburban Lumberjacks doing clean-up of town land.

Hingham:

- d. Patti reported World Fish Migration Day, discussion of actual date reaching out to Phil Lofgren on this. Tom to help Patti on Back and Weir rivers.
- e. National Estuaries Week 9/19-26th, Patti to put something together on this and put up on Facebook.

3. Discussions

- a) Awaiting the Hull BOS next meeting and the re-instatement of the Town's membership Scott and Judeth were hoping that to happen at the 3/32/20 meeting as it was not discussed at the 2/25/20 BOS mtg.
- b) Sharon brought up the wording in the opening statement of the Tri-Town Committee and it not containing the full 7 goals which Judeth opened the WREP manual and read from the Table of Contents.
- c) Patti spoke on ethics training that which needs to be taken every 2 yrs. Patti explained in Hingham you receive a letter from the BOS for your 3 yr. term. Patti discussed the annual report that must be done by every committee in town by 2/25/20 for the April town meeting. Patti has compiled the annual report for the past 2 years. It has not been submitted to Cohasset or Hull, which it used to be to help with consistency of the message to all 3 towns. April annual report book will be given to Cohasset & Hull going forward.

- d) Dick discussed roles of membership that committee members were: to bring forward activities, update and raise new issues, plan activities and there is a joint need w/ the three towns. Patti spoke of the committee set-up with a mtg. chair and 3 co-chairs called town coordinators; one each from Cohasset, Hingham and Hull. Dick added while he was leading/chairing he called himself the Meeting Facilitator.

Discussion continued about Town websites and who has been updating them and the rotation of roles annually to keep things fresh.

4. Topics to be added to next agenda-

- Seven components of committee purpose
- The roles of meeting facilitator and town coordinators
- How we want to handle the rotation of roles
- Meeting time and place
- Scott sending all members a List of Activities and Status of activities of the past on a spread sheet
- National Estuaries Week needs to be discussed
- Property condition at the end of Richards Road

5. Next meeting tentatively scheduled via remote call in for Thursday 5/21/20 at 4pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.