

Meeting Minutes
Weir River Estuary Park Committee
Tuesday January 10, 2023, 4:30pm
Remote - Call in Meeting

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 chair Sharon Allen (Hin), Dick Avery (Coh) Tom Bell (Coh), Judeth Van Hamm (Hul), Scott Plympton (Hul), Mark Buonagurio (Hin). Meeting called to order with quorum at 4:40.
2. **Minutes** from the meeting 11/15/22 were reviewed with corrections (Scott to revise) and approved for posting.
3. **Opening:** Sharon informs members of Remote Meeting Law details.

4. **Updates by Town:**

Cohasset:

- i. Dick Avery reports on construction at Straits Pond, and notes sidewalks have been installed, and new sewer pipes where suspended solids are captured. Dick will talk to DPW about the inspection ports and will insure that each intake has a port for cleaning.
- ii. Winter water birds are now on the pond. Mergansers, buffel heads, 18 mute swans.
- iii. Tom Bell reports that developers for the Jerusalem Rd Estates (Rattlesnake Run) claim to have plans and approvals from the 1980's. However, these plans were never filed before the Cohasset Planning Board.
 - a) Many 'No Disturb' barriers exist on the property which may stop/slow the development.
 - b) It's a 'limited' project as there is only a single point of access to the property. The property is land-locked by conservation buffers.

Hingham:

- a. Sharon reports no updates on the Hingham Conservation agent role. Loni is the acting agent.
- b. At Foundry Pond, the additional parking area is OK and ready for use.
- c. Also at Foundry Pond, no action taken on the suggestion that with DPW assistance, we could put up some boards over the spillway and divert the migrating fish from going over the falls.

- d. Water over Foundry Pond is currently quite high.
- e. Sydney Pond needs a clean-up effort. The trail is overgrown and needs repair. New trail blaze markers are needed.
- f. Tom Bell began a discussion on farm animal urine discharge within a salt marsh area. Is it zoned for agriculture? This needs to be discussed with Conservation Agent.

Hull:

- a. Scott reports on 'The Walking Path to the Island in Straits Pond via Eastman Road project':
 - a. The Topographical Survey and the Wetlands Delineation have been completed. The design and property line diagram are in progress and expected to finish in February.
 - b. The survey plans are complete and will be available for viewing on the Hull Town website next week.
 - c. Permitting is the next significant phase. Including Wetlands permits, and a Chapter 91 DEP permit, which can take 1 year to complete.
 - Tom Bell questions why DEP permission is required or necessary and thinks that the Hull Conservation Commission can approve this.
 - d. Project Funding would come from a Mass Trails grant, or Community Preservation Act.
 - Scott notes that the Hull Land Conservation Trust (HLCT) has funds that could be used for this project. HLCT was asked that if funds are not needed for 9 months, the Trust could purchase a CD and make significant returns. HLCT will proceed with a purchase of a CD.
- b. Solar Personal Rapid Transportation:
 - a. Judeth talks of the issues of crossing the street at GWB and the 'road diet' to turn that highway stretch into a 2-lane road.
 - b. More information on this approach to transportation will be provided by Judeth. See jpod.com, and transit.com. Look up 'Solar Mobility' on YouTube It proposes to cut emissions and prepare for sea-level rise.
 - c. State involvement will be needed. Meeting in late January.
 - d. Judeth will meet with the Hull Redevelopment Authority.

5. Tri-Town Annual Report:

- a. Highlight of each town's yearly activities need to be summarized and submitted.
 - a) Action: Each town representative prepare a summary by next meeting in February.

6. Next Meeting:

- a. Next meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 4:30. This will be a Zoom call
- b. The annual Estuary Cleanup Day is 4/22 (Earth Day)
- c. **Meeting Adjourns:** 5:53 PM