

**Hinckleys Pond Association**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

Welcome

- Glenn opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including a warm welcome to Michael Lach from HCT (Harwich Conservation Trust)
- Scott asked for approval for minutes from last year. Minutes were approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

- 53 households from last year – more than the 33 and 37 in the prior two years
- \$1700 current balance

Water Report

- Scott shared the challenges of capturing accurate and consistent data regarding our water quality.
- PALS (Ponds and Lake Stewards)
- Phosphorous, Chlorophyl, deprived oxygen, clarity these are the key metrics that are measured
- 2019 – HPA did an alum treatment –Phosphorous & Chlorophyl numbers improved significantly. Dissolved oxygen and clarity also improved.
- Volunteers collect pond samples – thank you to ALL of you who collect these samples and bring them to New Bedford!
- Take care of the pond! Keep septic system maintenance current; please work with landscapers to ensure no phosphorus is used. Keep land near pond native as possible to help filter out nutrients

Invasives

- Invasive; tough to eradicate
- THANK YOU, SCOTT! For cleaning up the patch of Phragmites
- \$50 permit from the Town required to cut down
- Purple loosestrife – nothing done with this yet
- Question: Can you pull the stalks out? Rhizomes will send up new shoots; stalks that are cut are sharp. Craig Cyr volunteered to help!

Leadership Changes

- Scott Norum will be new President, replacing Glenn Suter
- Jake Brown will take over as Treasurer, replacing Scott
- Susan Cyr stays as Clerk
- Becky Brack takes over as Social Chair, replacing Ruth Anderson-Zabre.
- Jane Anderson stays as web master but looking for someone to assist and grow into the role.
- Deb Selkow stays as Communication Chair.
- Stan Selkow is stepping down as Water Chair, replaced by Beth Doherty

Volunteers Needed

- Bog side of Rt 124 – trash pick up 2x per month. Glenn has all the equipment (bags, gloves, grabber)
- Invasive Clean Up – looks like Craig Cyr has volunteered – anyone else?
- Tech Savvy person to help with the website update/upgrade
- Water Committee – more volunteers to collect samples
- Harwich Pond Coalition

### Social Calendar

- 4-6 Sunday June 23 Block party Catherine Rose cul-de-sac; bring a drink and an appetizer.
- July 10 – Jazz party with Matt Brown trio – party at 9 Stanley Rd 4-6pm. Thank you to the Vitolos for hosting!
- Aug 31 Block Party Edith Grove
- Beach pop ups – will be announced at last minute to tie
- Pickleball – contact Ruth or Becky!
- Full moon paddles when weather and sky cooperate--Deb

At all these events, please bring your own cups so we cut down on waste! Thank you!

### Pond Coalition

- Brewster Pond Coalition has been active for the last ten years.
- Harwich is looking to create a Pond Coalition – intro meeting on Saturday, July 13 10am at the Community Center.
- All are welcome to come and learn more about it!
- Impassioned speech by Deb – kudos to her for being the tireless advocate and volunteer that she is to ensure the health of the pond! THANK YOU, DEB!!!

### Mike Lach, HCT Executive Director

- Scott gave Mike a donation from HPA for HCT.
- Mike provided a brief history of how the Jenkins bog came to become part of HCT's protected land. Thank you again to all of the HPA contributors who contributed to the fundraising efforts!
- 90% done with the design
- Ready to move forward with the construction this Fall once they get the permit.
- Goals for the ecological restoration of the bog bordering Hinckleys Pond:
  - Protect health of Hinckley Pond and entrance to Herring River
  - Protect the wildlife diversity
  - Would love to open the trails to accessibility for all (wheelchair access)

### Tom Evans, HCT President

- Special connection to HPA as his own house is off of Herring River so he's very interested in what we do "upstream"!
- Tom provided a brief history of what is happening to the small cranberry farmer on the Cape. It is economically tough to compete with the large growers off Cape.
- Asked us to be ambassadors for the ecological restoration vs the "perceived destruction".
- Cold Brook on Bank St is recovering quite quickly with their restoration and wildlife appears to be flourishing

## Q&A

- For other examples – check out the Bank St bog and there is one in Falmouth that has been restored. (Coonamessett River Restoration, Falmouth)
- Publications/PR efforts to educate the public
- What is the height of the ultimate vegetation plan post restoration? After removal of artificial sand layer, there will be more wetlands exposed and varying elevations, starting lower than it is today.
- Will there be the opportunity to dedicate benches once the project is completed? Yes – not sure where or how many. Estimate is about \$1500 per bench.
- How long? Cold Brook took about 10 months – hoping for same timeline
- HCT is looking to partner with the Tech School on different pieces of the restoration project.

MEETING ADJOURNED