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## TOWN OF PEMBROKE

### HERRING FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

June 15, 2016

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Present were Mark Amorello, Bill Boulter, Jim Hackett, Rick Madden, Art Egerton, Phil Lofgren from Weymouth Fisheries, Rob Adams, and Janet Fahey.

#### General Discussion:

Art mentioned that he had finished a screen saver via email to everyone.

Bill asked the Commission to attend the Selectmen's Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June for discussion.

Bill mentioned that Employee Appreciation Day would be on October 15. There will be fireworks, etc.

Bill also mentioned that each of the Commission should check to see if they need to be reappointed to the Commission. They can get this information from the Selectmen's Office and if need be, be sworn in in the Clerk's Office.

It was also voted to have James Hackett become a regular member of this Commission and remove Walter Hawkes. The Secretary will compose a letter for Mark Amorello and email it to him regarding the removal of Walter Hawkes. Motion was made by Jim and seconded. All in favor.

#### Action Items:

Jim mentioned that he has been going to the counter since March 15, 2016 and seeing larger numbers of Herring schooling and spawning. The counter counted 1600 in ½ hour. It also calculated 47,000 in one day. These herring were blue backs and alewife. Shad, shiners and minnows were also seen. He has not seen a lot of fish kill this year at the ladders. There has been a count of 238,000 count this year so far and the counters feel this is wonderful. Ben Gagagan from the Division of Marine Fisheries has taken out the counter. He mentioned that they were finishing up. Mark also mentioned that Ben said the counters did a great job this year.

Mark read the Pembroke Town News format regarding the meeting.

### **Stream Cleaning:**

It was mentioned that the work at the cleaning at the streams went very well this year and there has been quite a change from past years. The State mentioned this also. It was noted that not much more needs to be done at this time.

The upcoming cleaning can begin in mid-July. It was thought that perhaps a rotation would be the best avenue. Brad mentioned also to Mark that he will have volunteers help as he did last year. Mark mentioned that he is no longer on the Marine Fisheries Commission, but there are people that he can contact if need be.

It was also mentioned that the North River Watershed people should be involved with the cleaning of the streams. Mark will write a letter to them requesting their assistance. Art will also email them regarding the July and August cleaning.

Bill mentioned that he has keys for the Brockton Gate. The gate can be lowered so the fish would be able to get through the pipe. It was also mentioned that the Brockton Dam needs to remain shut because of flooding.

Rick mentioned that he has found debris at Four Winds Drive and has permission from landowner to enter the area in question to clean. He also mentioned that No Bottom Pond is in need of cleaning. He states it looks like a dump.

### **Weymouth Herring Run:**

Phil Lofgren, the Asst. Herring Warden, puts in approximately 500 hours per year. The area of Whitman's Pond is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile area with 198 acres. There are 5 ladders and there is a flood control system. There are 350,000 fish. He feels that there may be a problem with the counter as these numbers are down from last year.

Phil mentioned that they have had problems with the flood control system in the past. They have, however, brought the totals back up.

They also have video on U Tube of their fish. He feels that they have had a good year.

He mentioned that some of their waters are used for drinking water and the fish need to get in and out before the water is drawn down. This happens in the summer months. Discussion continued.

Phil spoke how Weymouth is going into the MWRA so they can get Great Pond back for spawning.

### **Central Plymouth County Water District Correspondence:**

Bill spoke about a letter from the Selectmen asking for assistance regarding Silver Lake and Furnace Pond. Brockton draws from Silver Lake during the herring migration. Mark will do up a letter regarding this.

It was felt that the Abington/Rockland water area is a problem also.

Bill met up with the State and they saw many juvenile fish in different areas of town. Rick mentioned the cleaning of areas is labor intensive.

#### **Indian Head River:**

Rick will do this area in May. He feels that this will be a good program in the future.

Bill mentioned to a representative from Hanover at the North River Watershed meeting if there would be a possibility we could work with them for cleanup in this area. He then called Hanover Town Hall and asked about its commission and they did not know of any such commission. Bill thought perhaps a letter to the Hanover Selectmen's Office would be the way to go. Mark will do this.

#### **Gorham Mill Pond:**

It was thought a second ladder should be placed there. It was mentioned that a speed ladder would be in order.

#### **Trailer Improvements:**

There is approximately \$800.00 left in the budget. It was proposed that a first aid kit be purchased. It was also mentioned that a 2 ft. chain saw could be purchased.

It was also brought up that the log book will be kept in the trailer.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

It was motioned by Art that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Rick. All in favor.

#### **Dates for Stream Cleaning:**

Mark will contact Brad regarding this.

#### **Water Levels:**

Currently there is no water being taken from Silver Lake. Water can be diverted from October 1 to May 31. They should help to maintain. Brad has looked into this.

**Fall Meeting Recommendation:**

This is the financial time of year to ask for funding for our Commission. Perhaps recruitment of new members and alternates can be done at this time also. Perhaps on Facebook or an application can be made out.

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting by Bill and seconded by Art. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fahey, Secretary