



City of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2023
7:00 PM
Location: Virtual Webcast Meeting

Attendees: Tom Murphy - Acting Chair, Peter Manor - Acting Director-DPW, Michael Ebert, Cindy Roberts, Kate Mallory, and Art O'Dea
Completing Minutes: Art O'Dea

I. Administrative Business

A. Call to Order

- This meeting is being conducted under the Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, by Governor Baker. Public access to participate has been made available.
- Tom Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and stated a quorum has been met.

B. Review of Past Minutes

- A draft of the minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2023 were previously distributed and no comments were received. Cindy Roberts moved to accept the minutes and Tom Murphy seconded the motion, with all in favor.

II. Engineer's Update

A. Engineer's Report

- Peter Manor gave a report on the status of the city's waterbodies. The watershed is in good shape and operating under normal conditions. The DPW is planning for Spring activities to restore normal water levels in the city's waterbodies.
- Interviews are underway to fill the vacancy in the DPW Director position.
- The DPW is preparing to purchase and install equipment in certain catch basins in the proximity of Lake Attitash as part of a pilot project coordinated with the Lake Attitash Association. The equipment includes replaceable cartridges that remove phosphorus and testing is planned to evaluate effectiveness.
- Peter Manor noted that the periodic review of the city's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is coming due and will provide an update and status in the future.

III. Harbormaster Update

A. Status

- Tom Murphy noted that a status and update on the harbormaster plan has not been provided in some time. Peter Manor offered to contact Chief Bailey for a status before the next meeting.

IV. Conservation Commission Activity Update

A. Conservation Commission Activity

- Michael Ebert reported the only open matter impacting the watershed is a notice of intent under review on a structure at 44 Birchmeadow.

V. Current Business

A. Membership Status

- Tom Murphy, as Assistant Chair, offered the position of Chair to the group; no one was interested at this time.
- Vacancies on the commission continue with no update from the Mayor's office.

B. 604(b) Grant Status

- Peter Manor provided an update on his recent conversations with the consultants engaged to develop the watershed-based plan of water quality restoration recommendations funded predominately by the Commonwealth under a 604(b) grant. He noted that site visits may be requested this Spring and members offered to assist and coordinate site visits where necessary. It was requested that the Commission receive a draft of the plan, once available.

C. Open Spaces ad hoc Committee

- No update was available. The most recent update indicated action by the city council is required to initiate the committee

D. Fertilizer Letter

- Tom Murphy thanked Cindy Roberts for her efforts in updating the letter and list of providers that will be distributed by the Mayor's office. The letter informed the recipients, lawn care companies that service Amesbury, of the requirements relating to the application of fertilizer and the impact on our waterways.

VI. New Business

A. PFAS

- Tom Murphy asked what, if any, testing is performed for PFAS, which are a classification of substances that can cause adverse effects in people when consumed in drinking water. Peter Manor noted the water department is aware of the increased awareness of the hazards and are in preparation for expected regulations that may require testing and reporting.

B. Lake Attitash

- Cindy Roberts reported on her outreach to consultants regarding a project to implement a custom structure in one or more culverts feeding Lake Attitash that uses a commercial product known as Eutrosorb technology to remove excess phosphorus to restore water quality. Discussions currently focus on the permitting requirements for the project.

VII. Adjournment

- Tom Murphy moved to adjourn, and Art seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.
- The next meeting is planned for March 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM.