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# AMESBURY

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**City of Amesbury**

**Lakes and Waterways Commission**

Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2023

7:00 PM

Location: Virtual Webcast Meeting

Attendees: Tom Murphy - Acting Chair, Peter Manor - Acting Director-DPW, Michael Ebert - *ex officio* Conservation Commission, 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 7:11 PM and stated a quorum has been met.

### B. Review of Past Minutes

- A draft of the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2023 was previously distributed and no comments were received. Cindy Roberts moved to accept the minutes and Kate Mallory 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. Water levels are high as is typical for the spring season and efforts are underway to remove water in Tuxbury Pond and Lake Gardner.

### B. DPW Director

- The city is interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy in the DPW Director position.

## III. Harbormaster Update

### A. Status

- Tom Murphy contacted Chief Bailey on the status of the Harbormaster. The current Harbormaster has expressed a desire to retire and efforts are underway to define a job position and fill it with a qualified candidate. The Chief indicated having an enforcement presence on the Merrimack River and the city's lakes is a priority, though he acknowledged it as a challenge to establish and fully staff.

## IV. Conservation Commission Activity Update

### A. Conservation Commission Activity

- Michael Ebert reported the administrative meeting to revise the Amesbury Wetlands Regulations has been rescheduled to March 20, 2023 and invited representatives of the commission to attend. The meeting agenda and marked drafts were to be distributed following the meeting.

- The vacancy for a full-time Conservation Agent has been filled with the hiring of Kassandra Pearl.
- The Conservation Commission is addressing an NOI at 48 Lake Attitash Road regarding work within the 100 ft buffer zone, which was postponed to the April meeting.

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.

B. 604(b) Grant Status

- No further updates though work on the project is progressing. Cindy Roberts and Tom Murphy contacted the consultants working on the grant to offer assistance with site visits. Cindy reported the offer was enthusiastically received and expected to be accepted once the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is approved and the snow melts.

VI. New Business

A. Utility Maintenance

- Kate Mallory raised a concern with the ongoing maintenance efforts by National Grid of their electrical utility poles in certain areas of the city adjacent to waterways. Her concern is that vegetation management, such as cutting of trees and shrubs and possible herbicide use, should be performed in cooperation with the Conservation Commission. Michael Ebert requested any additional information be forwarded to him for review and potential action. It was also suggested that Kate's information should be considered in the 604(b) grant effort.

B. Open Spaces *ad hoc* Committee

- Tom Murphy reported on correspondence he received from the city regarding ARPA funds received for the purposes of creating a management plan for open spaces. The involvement of the Commission was requested and Tom Volper will plan to attend a meeting on the activity scheduled for later in March.

C. Miscellaneous Items

- Peter Manor noted that cleaning of catch basins are being scheduled as part of the city's periodic review of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).
- Peter added that the Mayor's office is investigating requirements and actions expected for sampling and testing of PFAS, which are a classification of substances that can cause adverse effects in people when consumed in drinking water.
- Peter also noted that once the snow is gone, he expects the final efforts to complete the renovations at the Lake Gardner beach will resume.
- Cindy Roberts reported that the pilot project to purchase, install, and evaluate phosphorus removal apparatus in six catch basins near Lake Attitash is proceeding according to plan. The basins are identified and measured for installation.

VII. Adjournment

- Art O’Dea moved to adjourn, and Tom Murphy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM.