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By City Clerk at 8:19 am, Nov 17, 2023



**City of Amesbury**

**Lakes and Waterways Commission**

Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2023

7:00 PM

Location: Virtual Webcast Meeting

Attendees: Tom Murphy - Acting Chair, Cindy Roberts, Bernadette Lucas, Art O'Dea, and Joseph Buckley  
– Director of Public Works  
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 Minutes**

- A draft of the minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2023 were previously distributed and no comments were received. Cindy Roberts move to accept the minutes and Tom Murphy seconded the motion with all in favor.

**II. Engineer's Update**

**A. Engineer's Report**

- Joe Buckley reported the winter drawdown is underway, but it is taking longer due to the incessant rain.
- A recruiting consultant has been engaged to assist with filling the open City Engineer position.

**III. Conservation Commission**

**A. Conservation Commission Activity**

- No report was available.

**IV. 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.
- No update has been received from the city regarding a plan to fill the vacancies in the commission.

B. Harbormaster

- Tom Murphy noted the framework and fee structure to fund an expanded function of the Harbormaster position is developed but no action is planned until later this year.

C. Open Spaces Committee

- No update is available.

D. 604(b) Grant

- Joe Buckley provided an update on the progress of the 604(b) grant and noted that he is working with the consultants retained to establish the deliverables under the grant. Additional details should be available for the next meeting of the commission.

E. Solar Farm

- No further updates are available on the proposed solar farm on the Vynorious' parcel 45-4 proposed by Syncarpha Capital LLC. No follow-up has been received from Tom Murphy's communication to the Planning Board.

V. Waterbodies Status

A. Catch Basin and MS4 Issues

- Joe Buckley provided an update on the status of a review of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Plan. There is a significant effort required to become fully compliant and the DPW is working with the mayor's office to establish the funding necessary for the DPW to administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of the regulations.

B. Lake Attitash

- Cindy Roberts reported on the status of the pilot project to purchase, install, and evaluate phosphorus removal apparatus in six catch basins near and around Lake Attitash. Installation is still delayed so that the DPW can first clean the storm drains as part of their periodic maintenance procedures.
- Cindy noted the annual treatment of invasive weeds on Lake Attitash will not occur this year because of the high water levels.

C. Clarks Pond

- Tom Murphy reported the water level to be high all season with no stormwater runoff issues observed.

D. Lake Gardner

- Bernadette Lucas mentioned water quality issues present at Lake Gardner, particularly in the vicinity of the newly refurbished beach. A significant number of geese have been observed and their droppings may be contributing to the water quality.

VI. Adjournment

- The next meeting is planned for November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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- Cindy Roberts moved to adjourn, and Art O’Dea seconded with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.