

MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM
Minutes of February 10, 2020
Seaside One 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Jessica Lamothe, Chair; Lynn Atkinson; Francie Caudill; Deb Fraize; Carolyn Kelly; Patti Mitchell; Joan Nesbit

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Barbara Warren; Michele Kulick; Mike Carvalho; Jim Elder

Chair Lamothe opened the meeting. The minutes of January 13, 2020 were approved.

Current Business

- Sawmill Brook Film: The film was reviewed in the past two weeks by committee members, and comments and edits were sent to our filmmaker. Jessica sent an update on the progress of this project to the CPC. We suggested possible narrators for the film. Dates for a Spring screening event were discussed with the stream survey training being a possibility as well as seeing if we can work it into a 375th event.
- Report on meeting with Board of Health (BOH): B. Warren reviewed the history of bacterial testing in Kettle Cove (see attached report) as well as the EPA's DNA testing to determine if there is human source of contamination. We will meet with Ellen Lufkin to update the septic map of this area to see if more systems are due to be inspected.
- We also explained our concern about waterfowl feeding - a significant contributor to bacterial pollution. The BOH has ordered four new signs, which will be installed at coastal areas around town, that instruct why people should not feed waterfowl.
- Vine Street Stream Flow: The partial blockage of Sawmill and Causeway Brooks by downed trees, debris and beaver dams in the Vine/Lincoln St. area was reported to ConComm administrator C. Bertoni. The process must always originate with the BOH. There are various means for dealing with the beavers depending upon location. The DPW is working on an RDA from the ConComm to remove the debris.
- Shellfish Bed Project: The possible dates for the next shellfish survey at Black Beach are the early mornings of 3/13 or 3/14, or 4/11 or 4/13, when there will be extreme low tides. Jim Elder looked at the Chubb Creek site - as much of that site is in Beverly it is not likely a good location for a shellfish survey. Long Beach was mentioned as a promising site but can only be accessed by boat. The ranking of sites to work on is (1) Black Beach, (2) Gray Beach and (3) Long Beach.
Jim has also discussed the likelihood of herring or other anadromous fish in Sawmill Brook, with Brad Chase of Mass. Marine Fisheries.
- Stream Survey: It has been 11 years since our last survey of the Sawmill Brook watershed, so our committee will undertake this project again this spring with the help of Salem Sound Coastwatch and volunteers recruited from our town. There will be a training for volunteers on Thursday, April 30 from 7-8pm. Teams will be assigned to segments of the streams, will conduct their surveys during May and report their results at a May 27th meeting. Jessica will confirm if we can use the Manchester Community Center for those meetings.

Salem Sound Coastwatch Updates

- See www.salemsound.org for dates of coming lectures at the Marblehead Library.
- SSCW is holding a Summer Institute for Teachers to learn how to teach about climate change.
- On June 8, SSCW is conducting a “School to Sea” program at Singing Beach for all the 5th graders of Manchester and Essex.
- Application has been made for a grant for salt marsh education along our coast.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 30, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. in Seaside One

Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill