

MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM
Minutes of May 15, 2023
Virtual, 7:15 pm

Members present: Jessica Lamothe, Chair; Lynn Atkinson; Francie Caudill; Deb Fraize; Patti Mitchell

Members absent: Joan Nesbit; Carolyn Kelly

Also present: Barbara Warren; Jim Elder

Chair Lamothe called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.

Jessica thanked Deb and Chris Comb's family for joining her for the Community Clean-up at White Beach.

Jessica summarized the public meeting of the Board of Health with the Northeast Mosquito Control District on April 20, which was attended virtually by several Stream Team members. It was determined that we should be involved in some public education around the environmental consequences of aerial spraying.

Current Business

- Sawmill Brook — Barbara Warren will try to get more specific information about the application process and benefits of designating Sawmill Brook as an "Outstanding Water Resource". We would also need to consult the DPW and Select Board about any consequences of this designation, before proceeding further. Jessica found a map online which shows the water bodies in Massachusetts which had this designation as of several years ago. Lynn will search for any existing applications she might find online. It would be useful for us to look at a map of street drains that empty directly into Sawmill Brook.
- HOBOS and fish monitoring — Lynn will place the water temperature monitoring devices in Sawmill Brook and Cat Brook again this spring. Lynn, Deb and Francie collected water on April 16 for eDNA testing for presence of brook trout, rainbow smelt and alewife herring, at 3 locations: Sawmill Brook, a few meters upstream from the School St. crossing; Sawmill Brook just east of the Powder House Lane apts; and Bennett Brook, just north of Summer St. and east of Bennett St. These samples are frozen, and Jessica will be in touch with Geof Day to get the address of the lab which can do this work.

Updates from other committees

- Water Resources Protection Task Force: Recommendations are being submitted to the Select Board.
- Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan: The recent public hearing was attended by several Stream Team members. The committee is formulating recommendations for short, medium and long-term plans, anticipating future sea level rise that will impact infrastructure and some neighborhoods in town.
- Open Space and Recreation: Patti reported on plans to make entrances to the Western Woods, Powder House Hill Reservation, etc. more accessible.

- Harbor Master Plan Committee: Deb reported that the grant applications are underway. Jim Elder has spoken to the Harbormaster about including research into future shellfish harvesting possibilities.

Salem Sound Coastwatch Update

- Barbara Warren recommended we look at the new website for SSCW.
- If we wish to do some water sampling for bacterial contamination this summer, volunteers should send Barbara the dates when they will be away. There will be a training for volunteers. See salemsound.org for the schedule.
- The new staff member in charge of education, Carly McIver will lead the first grade classes from Manchester for the scheduled rocky shore field trips at White Beach. Francie will meet with her to plan this event, and Lynn agreed to volunteer on June 9, 10-12 am.
- Barbara will send via email the summer schedule for Marine Invasives Monitoring at White beach

Summer Work Schedule

We will meet at Dexter Pond at 9 am on Saturday, July 29th for the annual purple loosestrife removal.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023 at 7:15 pm. This meeting will take place at the Chowder House at Tuck's Point if the weather is favorable.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill