

MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM
Minutes of February 28, 2022
Virtual, 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Joan Nesbit

Also Present: Barbara Warren; Melissa Flinn; Jim Elder; Geof Day; Erika Brown

Chair Lamothe called the meeting to order.

Current Business

Stream Surveys: Last fall's stream surveys of Sawmill Brook and its tributaries led to the creation of an action plan at our last meeting. Tonight, we started the process of prioritizing those actions. The full working action plan is attached.

- Jessica reported that she had informed Chuck Dam/DPW about the culvert/bridge on Mill Street that is caving into Cat Brook; large trash items near the RR tracks at the end of Ancient County Way and in Causeway brook near Sweeney Park which need to be removed; and the culvert under Route 127 which needs to be cleared of sediment.
- The recommendation to create an outdoor learning classroom along the stream near the Memorial school was of interest to B. Warren of Salem Sound Coastwatch. Jessica said she would talk to members of the Memorial School building committee to see if anything like this was part of the landscaping plan or if it looks like there would be space for this. This is a subject for future exploration.
- A fish ladder at the outlet of Dexter Pond? Geof Day explained that would only work for herring, and we have no records of herring being present in our streams. He also said the state is very behind on fish ladders and there are many maintenance issues, so we will not pursue this idea at this time.
- The lack of buffers along sections of Sawmill Brook and Causeway Brook which flow through the ECC golf course are a concern. Buffers would help prevent erosion into the stream, particularly in view of sea level rise, protect the water from fertilizers and pesticides, and shade the stream to keep the water cool.
 - It is possible that the newly formed Water Resource Protection Task Force will also be urging buffers as this was recommended by Horsley-Witten in the 1990 Report that they will be working from.
 - It was agreed that we would ask to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss this as well as several other issues of concern along the golf course like the pump and firehose found near the Mill Street end.
 - Geof Day also reported that in summer Causeway Brook turns green with algae growth and the water becomes too warm for brook trout to tolerate. He will ask Trout Unlimited to test the water there.

Mosquito Control:

- Lynn will contact the Board of Health to find out when they are meeting with the NE Mosquito Control District about this year's plan for treatment.

Shellfish Beds:

- Jim Elder reported that the Division of Marine Fisheries was not convinced that the protocol and results of our shellfish survey at Black Beach justified continued efforts to reopen those shellfish beds. Jim is continuing to search for a better protocol.

Brook Trout:

- Geof Day has sent his letter documenting brook trout presence in Cat Brook to the ZBA as evidence in their review of the proposed 40B project at Shingle Hill.
- He suggested that we do more collection of eDNA and temperature data in other parts of our stream system and is willing to teach volunteers how to do this.
- B. Warren stated that SSCW has funding and could purchase the equipment and pay for the laboratory testing, as well as possibly provide volunteers. We are looking for a nearby lab which can do the eDNA analysis, as Geof had taken samples previously to the lab in Orono, ME.

Water Resources Protection Task Force:

- The new Town Committee that has been formed required member representatives from the Stream Team. The Stream Team had given their ok via email for Jessica Lamothe to serve as the working team member and Francie Caudill to be the alternate, but the Board of Selectmen asked our committee to vote formally on this.
- Deb Fraize moved and Carolyn Kelly seconded to vote Jessica and Francie as member and alternate, respectively, to the new Task Force. It was a unanimous vote.

Salem Sound Coastwatch updates: B. Warren reminded us of the lectures on each third Wednesday of the month. The March 16th subject is local wind turbine projects and related wildlife/bird protection. See www.salemsound.org for details.

The minutes of September 15 and December 13 were reviewed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, March 28. Date and venue TBD

Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill