

Narragansett Harbor Management Commission -- 2022-Sep-06, revised Oct-05

Convene / Roll Call

- **Call To Order @ 19:05h** by Chair Bryan Couture, Site: Narragansett Town Hall Small Conference Room
- **Roll Call**, Members: Bryan Couture, Ray Morocco, John Hughes, Don Vivenzio, Jeff Berry
Liaison Staff: Jill Sabo
- **Exhibits Provided:**
 - HMC Meeting minutes of 2022-Jun
 - Packet "Lower Narrow River Restoration Meeting, January 2018" from Tony Columbo (Mettatuxet Improvement Association) on status of Narrow River shoaling and near-term mitigation plan.
 - Salt Pond Coalition test site data up to 2022-Aug-31
 - Agenda for this meeting

Consent Agenda

- **Item 1C, Minutes from 2022-Jun-07:** Minutes distributed before meeting. No corrections requested. Moved by Ray Morocco, seconded John Hughes to accept report as corrected. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Jeff B abstains)
- **Item 2C, Harbormaster's Report:** Harbormaster not present.

Regular Agenda

Moved by Ray Morocco, seconded John Hughes, to move up Item 5R of New Business for immediate discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Item 5R, Narrow River Dredging (New Business)**

Tony Columbo, president of Mettatuxet Improvement Association and longtime boater on Narrow/Pettaquamscutt rivers, presented plan being discussed with participation of Town Manager and Town Council President. Plan under consideration is to use excavation bucket and 30 cu.yd dump ("uke") to remove sand (from MLW outward/downward a vertical 3 ft) from peninsula south of the Narrow River ocean breach. Deposit sand at town beach directly southward. Benefits:

- Mitigate the circuitous S-curve of tidal flow, resulting in stronger ebb-flow and lessened shoaling
- Raise level of the remaining peninsula with goal of restoring dune
- Harvest sand to benefit nearby Narragansett Town Beach

This plan develops from preceding studies from the late URI Prof. Boothroyd, now being continued by Prof. Spaulding. Possible town course of action is to engage Foth Engineering to document formally so that town can secure a permit for this excavation (not being called "dredging"). It is hoped later that government funds can be solicited to continue the project using traditional dredging methods.

- **Item 3R, Point Judith Pond Closures / Water Quality Update (Old Business):**

- Don Vivenzio has been sampling water in East Pond / Bluff Hill Cove along the Point Judith Neck shore opposite Frank Neck (Great I). This data is present in newest Coliform and Enterococcus results as "Pt Judith Pond, East Pond Site 2". Figures were very good until Aug-31, which showed marked spike, presumably in response to a mild rain event.
- Bryan Couture and Jill Sabo have toured (town-owned) Sunset Farm woodlands in attempt to determine drainage course of waters into Champlin Cove. There appears an opportunity to route drainage away from Briggs Farm development by directing flow north.

- Town has been employing storm drain rover with camera in attempt to determine origins of clandestine drain hookups on Durkin Dr., Robertson Rd (and possibly others). Intended action is to seal these off at junction with storm drain pipe.
- There is photographic documentation of a “houseboat” permanently docked at waterfront property on Flintstone Rd (Harbour I.). Vessel appears absent propulsion and normal state-issued registration numbers, and appears to have commodious plumbing facilities. This appears citable as a violation for many reasons whether deemed a residence or a boat under town zoning and Harbor Management regulations. Action items:
 - Jill Sabo to talk to Harbormaster Connors and solicit information on handling of houseboats in No. Kingstown
 - Jill to talk to No. Kingstown Building Inspector in same vein
 - Jill to talk to RI CRMC on legality of houseboats in coastal ponds.
- **Item 4R, Water Quality Testing (New Business):**
 - HMC member Don Vivenzio has been sampling water every 2 weeks starting May-25 in East Pond / Bluff Hill Cove along the Point Judith Neck shore opposite Frank Neck (Great I). This data is present in newest Coliform and Enterococcus results as “Pt Judith Pond, East Pond Site 2”. Figures were very good until Aug-31, which showed marked spike, presumably in response to a mild rain event.
 - As planned, we have invoice from the testing service for analysis of samples from this site. Motion by John Hughes, seconded by Don Vivenzio, to approve spending not-to-exceed \$1000 at this site. Motion passed unanimously.
 - It was noted there have been no closures this season of Pt. Judith Pond areas A (bulk of main PJP south of Smelt Brook Cove) and B (East Pond, not including already shellfishing-prohibited areas).

Reports from Commission/Staff: none

Open Forum:

- It has been rumored that dredging is being planned in Pt Judith Pond main channel by Army Corps of Engineers in the vicinity of the Jerusalem State Pier / “Dog Beach”.
- There has been observed a massive fish-kill (juvenile menhaden) in PJP in vicinity of Congdon Cove/Cummock I.
- As currently constituted, 2 vacancies exist on NHMC. Possibilities discussed for desired backgrounds of candidates.

Correspondence: none

Items for next agenda: recorded by NHMC Chair Bryan Couture

Adjournment: 21:30h, moved Jeff Berry, seconded Ray Morocco. Approved 5-0. Next meeting 2022-Oct-04, 19:00h, Narragansett Town Hall, Board Room, or alternative site as required.

Respectfully submitted, *Jeff Berry*, NHMC Secretary