

Pleasant Bay Steering Committee
December 13, 2022, 4 pm via Zoom

Attending: Allin Thompson, Chris Miller, DeeDee Holt, Walter North, Fran McClennen, Dolly Howell, Beth Gibbons, Carole Ridley

Fran McClennen called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes of November 22, 2022 (with one typo correction) were approved on a motion by Walter North and a second by Chris Miller. The motion carried 4-0-2 (Fran McClennen and Dolly Howell abstained).

Coordinator's Report

The FY24 budget approved at the November 22nd meeting was submitted to the four towns.

Work on the Climate Adaptation Action Plan continues. The work group for this project, funded by the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, met again on December 5th. The meeting featured a discussion on Sea Level Rise assumptions, and how to tailor those to the characteristics of the resource or asset to be protected. Discussion of this will continue at future meetings. We anticipate a presentation on eelgrass restoration potential at the January 23rd meeting, and a presentation on salt marsh restoration potential at a meeting in February.

Work on the Jackknife marsh restoration project permitting continues. This work is funded by a Coastal Zone Management grant. A draft Notice of Intent has been circulated for internal review and should be submitted to the Chatham Conservation Commission in early 2023.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the deadline for comments on the Watershed Permit draft regulations and Title 5 amended regulations. Comments are now due by January 30, 2023. A draft comment letter from the Alliance has been circulated and will be discussed again at the Watershed Work Group meeting on January 5th. The Towns individually are also submitting comments.

Two inquiries related to dock and pier issues were made recently. One had to do with a pre-existing unlicensed structure on a freshwater pond. The other had to do with a potential license transfer, for which there is no precedent or regulatory process of which we are aware. It has also come to our attention that MA Division of Marine Fisheries is recommending a height guideline of 1.5:1 (height to width). This is not consistent with the Alliance guidelines of a max 4 feet. The Coastal Work Group will convene in early January to discuss these two approaches.

The Alliance's next meeting dates are as follows:
Watershed Work Group, January 5 at 8:30 am
Climate Adaptation Work Group, January 23 at 1 pm
Steering Committee, January 17 at 9 am

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm on a motion from Walter North and a second from Chris Miller.

Signed:



Date: 1/17/23

