

WREP Meeting Minutes 11/4/11

Location: Hingham

Attendees:

Dick Avery, Faith Burbank, Judeth Van Hamm, Amy May,

Dennis Blackall, Anne Herbst

Scribe: Scott Plympton

Minutes of 9/27/11 were read and approved

Weir River Park Guide

- A new activity for the committee. Create a guide to the estuary park, a pamphlet / collection of items of interest; history, geology, walking guides, points of interest, etc.
- Action: Scott to reach out to Kevin Morris (Hull Chamber). Dick to discuss with Hull Rotary Jack Berringer)

Lofchie Property Update

- A proposed subdivision of the land into 4 developed lots with the remainder as a strip of protected land that borders the water.
- Many open questions on funding approaches. No information on appraised value. No actions for committee as yet. We monitor the progress

Resource Management Plan

We are soliciting feedback from each town's Conservation agents on what issues they see for the estuary. Hull's Conservation Agent, Anne Herbst presented her views on the estuary:

- The WREP Land Protection Plan (LPP) is highly valued. However, it needs to be updated and used. Nothing is static.
- Sea Level Rise
 - As sea levels are expected to rise in the coming decades, what is currently upland marshland may in the future be low land marsh. Salt marsh migration and the ocean overwash on Straits Pond may become significant threats. Review the LPP.
- Farnsworth property (lot 71 on LPP)
 - A proposed housing development on the estuary has been rejected by the Conservation Commission, but has been overruled by the DEP.
 - Major threat to WREP. Wetlands protections are not strong enough. There are no standards. You think things are protected, when they may not be.
- A past town bylaw allows using underwater land in calculating the total lot size building.
- Nutrients, pollution and impervious surfaces:
 - A town project for storm water management on Richards Rd at Straits Pond is pending. The project will build catch basins / rain

gardens. The DPW needs to begin this activity as grants will soon expire.

- Tax title properties (taxes in arrears)
 - Encourage private owners to move their land to conservation
 - Review a list of all town owned property targeted for disposition
- Open Space Plan (Hull)
 - Still pending and stalled.

Next Meeting

- 11/29 at the Weir River Estuary Center. 7:00PM