

Pleasant Bay Alliance - Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2009

Attendees: Allin Thompson, Chuck Bartlett, Chris Miller, Jillian Douglass, Larry Ballantine, Harry Herrick, Judith Bruce

Minutes from February 3, 2009 were approved. Chuck and Judith abstained as they were not in attendance on that date.

1. Watershed Work Group

Carole asked the Steering Committee to vote to accept provisional project status for the Muddy Creek restoration effort, and authorize Allin to sign the letter of agreement. Carole reported that Jeremy Bell has been assigned by MCZM to work with the Alliance and had attended the last watershed work group meeting. He explained that provisional project status is a new designation for projects for which his department needs more information. The work group is interested in conducting an assessment of alternatives to increase flushing at the culverts. Jeremy identified the National Association of Counties (NACo) as a possible grant source. Carole asked the committee to give her authorization to request a letter from the County Commissioners, which is a requirement of the NACo grant program, and to submit the grant. She indicated that there were still questions about the match requirement and other aspects of the grant, but given the tight timeframe she would need to take those steps to further evaluate the potential. The committee voted unanimously to authorize the request to the Commissioners, and to pursue the grant if it seemed promising.

Carole also reported that the final version of the SMAST report on Muddy Creek is in and the final invoice has been authorized for that work. The report will be posted on the Alliance's website.

A draft scope of work for the fertilizer management project was discussed by the work group. The tasks will focus on developing a public outreach program, and accumulating information on the efficacy of local policies and regulations to control nitrogen impacts from fertilizer. MassDEP is ready to hire a firm to conduct the assessment of leaching rates.

Carole shared the recommended letter to MEPA regarding the Orleans Draft CWMP. The letter had been vetted by the watershed work group. Judith asked that the letter be clarified to reflect that sewerage would be extended in the Pleasant Bay watershed during the early phases, it just would not yet be connected to the tri-town system. The committee supported that change, and agreed to vote on the letter once the submission has been made to MEPA.

The committee also agreed to send a letter to MassDEP regarding an application for a groundwater discharge permit at Nickerson Park.

2. Coastal Processes Work Group

Carole reported that the work group had met to review possible sites for placement of dredge material. This discussion is part of a longer term sediment management effort. At this time there are no recommendations to dredge, but the selection of sites for material disposal is part of long term planning.

3. Other Issues

A No Discharge Area application has been drafted and circulated for comment. Meeting with waterways committees will follow.

Carole was contacted by Lara Slifka to see if the Alliance would be interested in participating in a Fishing Line Recycling Program. The committee thought this was an interesting idea, but not something the Alliance would take a lead on. The committee asked Carole to convey support to Lara for pursuing the

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Carole

idea, and request that she keep the committee posted of progress. The Alliance could send a letter of support to the towns if that would be helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Signed:

Allen Thompson

Date:

4-7-09

Attest: Allen Thompson, Secretary of the Alliance

Witness: [illegible]