

Friends of Barnstable Harbor Minutes of Annual Meeting December 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 by President Avery Revere. In attendance were Secretary Peter Eleftherakis and 17 additional members.

A total of 20 Proxy ballots were received and the vote was unanimous to elect the slate of Directors as presented. Following approval of the vote, Director Fred Schilpp reported that he wished to resign his director position and that he was nominating Gordon Starr to replace him. A nomination was made and seconded and the vote was unanimous to elect Gordon Starr as a director.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were distributed by Secretary Eleftherakis and were accepted by unanimous vote.

An abbreviated summary of the Treasurers Report was read by Secretary Eleftherakis and was accepted by unanimous vote.

The President then provided a status update on the following items from 2018:

On April 16, 2018, Friends of Barnstable Harbor (FOBH) sponsored a presentation of the results of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project study of Nitrogen Loading Threshold in Barnstable Harbor and Bass Hole which was completed in 2017. The event was held in the Harbor View Conference Room of the Barnstable County Complex and was attended by a standing-room only crowd. The report was presented by co-author Brian Howes and contributor Tom Cambareri. The results indicated that, by and large, Barnstable Harbor is in very good shape in terms of nitrogen loading. Two areas (comprising the inner harbor and Bass Hole) were noted as borderline. The full report of the study is available at <https://www.townofbarnstable.us/waterresourceadvisory/Barnstable%20MEP%20DRAFT.pdf>.

On June 14, Friends of Barnstable Harbor, in conjunction with the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC), sponsored an event at the Old Colonial Courthouse entitled Where Does the Water Go. The meeting reviewed work being done by a committee of FOBH volunteers who are addressing storm water runoff in Barnstable Village. The committee began work with town engineer Dale Saad to examine the lagoons installed behind the Barnstable Tavern building however, town focus turned to addressing the flooding issues at Blish Point and Commerce Road. FOBH member Doug Payson provided annual meeting attendees with a summary of the history and original purposes of the lagoons.

FOBH Director Brit Lay presented an overview of the Youth Education Project (YEP) in 2018. Originally started as a program for fourth graders, the program has expanded to include students of all grades. A pilot program was conducted in June 2018 with plans for two days of trips on the Horseshoe Crab, the Barnstable Harbor Eco Tours pontoon boat. Although weather limited the pilot to one day of trips, over 100 Sturgis Charter School students spent a day touring Barnstable Harbor and participating in a series of stations designed to expose them to the natural habitat in the area. Feedback was very positive. Two donations in support of YEP were received last year and thus far 10 pairs of binoculars have been purchased for use in future tour events. Approximately \$5,000 in donations remains to support the program.

President Revere presented an overview of the Benthic Mapping Project. A series of meetings were held with Mark Borelli of the Center for Coastal Studies on Provincetown and a number of town officials including Town Manager Mark Ells, Town Councilor John Flores and Dr. Dale Saad from DPW. The town expressed interest in providing some funding for the project and, based on that and additional funding commitments received, initial samples were taken over 22 days in the spring. In the fall a total of 90 Benthic Grabs were taken from 30 sites across the harbor. Fundraising in support of the remaining analytical work will be the next step in the project. President Revere will be convening a meeting this winter to address that.

A wide-ranging discussion was held regarding a number of issues affecting the neighborhoods surrounding the harbor including repairing of the beach damage from the spring storms and plans to mitigate future flooding in the Commerce Road area. It was reported that the town is exploring adding a rock barrier to the Mill Way beach area west of the parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50.