

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters
Wellfleet, MA
November 13, 2014
9:00 am-5:00 pm

Members Present: Tim Smith, Steve Spear, Steve Block (by phone), Eric Derleth, Charleen Greenhalgh, Hunt Durey

Others Present: Margo Fenn, Martha Rheinhardt, Don Palladino, John Portnoy

Administration/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR): Don Palladino provided an update on FHR activities. He noted that FHR has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for engineering assistance with low-lying roads and conceptual design for removal of High Toss Road and creation of a pedestrian access to Griffin Island. FHR has provided a link on its website for contractors to access background reports for this work.

FHR submitted a letter of intent to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) seeking a grant to fund rare species monitoring in 2015. The Wellfleet Harbor Conference was held on November 15, 2014. At that session there was a request from a local fisherman to provide concrete steps down to the water to provide fishing access on the harbor side of the new Chequessett Neck Road bridge.

Tim Smith and Don Palladino met with representatives of Ducks Unlimited (DU) to discuss the Restoration Project. DU offered to participate in upcoming consultations with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and others about a developing fundraising strategy.

The Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) will conduct a field walkover on December 4th and 5th to begin work on the Phase 1B investigations around the Chequessett Neck Road bridge area. This is a first step in developing an archaeological sampling plan for the area. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has signed the Programmatic Agreement with the National Park Service.

FHR will be conducting interviews in the next two weeks for two contract positions: A Grant/Fiscal Manager and a Senior Project Manager.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2014 HRRC meeting.

Schedule of Meetings: The Committee agreed on the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

- Nov. 18, 2014, 3 pm Bidders teleconference for High Toss Rd design
- Nov. 20, 2014 2 pm Meeting with DOI and Town legal counsels
- Nov. 24, 2014 9 am Facilitation session with CYCC and CBI

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nov. 24, 2014 9:30 am | Interview finalists for LL Road Design |
| Nov 24, 2014 2:30 pm | Interview candidates for Senior Proj. Mgr position |
| Nov. 25, 2014 2:30 pm | Interview candidates for Grant/Fiscal Mgr position |
| Dec 5, 2014 1 pm | Teleconference with NGOs re fundraising strategy |
| December 18, 2014 | HRRC regular meeting |
| January 15, 2015 | HRRC regular meeting |

In addition to these dates, there will be weekly Wednesday morning (9 am) phone consultations on project coordination and biweekly calls (Friday 9 am) regarding development of the Adaptive Management Plan. The Committee agreed that a joint calendar is needed to track all of these activities. Tim Smith agreed to set up a Google calendar for HRRC and FHR to use.

Low-lying Properties: The Committee discussed ongoing engineering and design work for flood-proofing low-lying properties. A property owner wishes to explore the possibility of using a portion of a privately owned conservation property for locating a flood berm. The Committee discussed the idea of a land swap or easement. Don Palladino suggested that HRRC representatives meet with the owner to explore options for this property.

The Committee discussed what types of mitigation and expenses the Restoration Project could reasonably pay for. This question needs to be explored with town and DOI legal counsels.

The Committee discussed other issues related to low-lying properties and concluded that these issues should also be included for discussion with the legal advisors, and might need further discussion by the MOU Working Group as well.

The Committee also discussed ongoing modeling work for the Upper Pole Dike Creek basin and agreed that when this work is completed, the HRRC should set up a meeting with property owners in this basin to review the results.

Presentation on Box.com: Garrett Ellis of Box.com joined the meeting by phone to provide a presentation on how this system could be used for document sharing. While there are some federal agencies that currently use this system, there are no current users within the Departments of Agriculture or Interior. Tim Smith noted that DOI agencies have their own document-sharing program through Google Docs and are blocked from using other sites. The Committee discussed the possibility of setting up a place on the FHR website where members could share documents.

Update on Project Work Plan: The Committee briefly reviewed progress on key work elements (see FHR report above) and discussed the following:

Chequessett Neck Road (CNR) Bridge Design: FHR is expecting a new proposal from Fuss & O'Neill for the next phase of the CNR bridge and tide gate design. This phase is expected to include up to 95% design. It will include options for some new design

features such as canoe/kayak portage facilities and steps for fishing access.

Low-lying Roads: The Committee discussed unpaved roads that might be affected by the Project. FHR and HRRC are currently evaluating proposals for engineering design on several sections of low-lying paved roads, but there are some other unpaved road sections that might still need further evaluation. Table 4-21 in the DEIS/EIR (pp. 259-261) analyzes impacts to all low-lying roads. Committee members discussed these road segments and agreed to identify which ones might need additional survey work. This work could be funded in a future fiscal year.

Martha Rheinhardt and Charleen Greenhalgh offered to review the ENSR survey report for these road segments and check to see which segments, if any, are needed for access to private properties.

CBI Facilitation Update: The Committee discussed the November 12, 2014 facilitation session with representatives of the Chequessett Yacht and Country Club (CYCC). The group discussed who should sign an agreement with CYCC, should the facilitation process prove successful. The Committee agreed that if the parties are able to reach a set of joint recommendations, the full Committee should vote to support the recommendations and authorize the Committee Chair to sign a non-binding agreement with CYCC.

FEIS/EIR Issues: Tim Smith is reviewing Chapters 2 and 4 of the DEIS/EIR to incorporate updates and edits to address issues raised at the September 17, 2014 Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting. He is also rewriting the Adaptive Management appendix for the FEIS/EIR. Further work is needed before the document will be ready for internal review but the goal is still to release the FEIS/EIR in early 2015.

Documents referred to in the meeting:

Minutes of the October 9, 2014 HRRC meeting