

## November 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

President: Josh Rownd [JR]

Vice President: Ben Meade [BM]

Treasurer: Peter Vandermeulen [PV] **ABSENT**

Secretary: Greg Murrer [GM]

ATTENDEES: Fred Boland, Tim Clark, Jim Doucette, **James Goodhart, Fred Jennings, Geoffrey Klane, Jim MacDougall, Ben Meade, Zack Melerfant, John Monaghan, Peter Morbeck, Greg Murrer, Jack O'Mera, Jim Shimer, Bob Torkildsen, Chett Walsh, David Walsh, Kenny Washburn, Neil Wermath\***

\*Bold denotes Board Members.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

### Meeting Agenda

1. **Treasurer's Report:** JR distributed copies of the Chapter's latest Financial Statement which had also been distributed to the members by email prior to the meeting. After a brief discussion, upon a motion duly seconded, the Statement was unanimously approved.

2. **Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the Minutes from the October 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes were circulated to the attendees and after review and upon motion duly seconded, the Minutes were unanimously approved subject to correction of the names "Geof Day" and "Geoff Klane".

3. **Banquet Committee:** JR referenced a solicitation letter intended to invite businesses to take out advertisements in the Chapter's Banquet program. Some correction to the letter were noted and JR agreed to distribute a final form for use by the Chapter. Bob Torkildsen asked that the attendees double their efforts to invite people to the Banquet, secure table commitments and make donations for the raffle/auction. Geoff Klane volunteered to make a custom fly rod at cost to the Chapter and offer it up as an auction item. Fred Boland indicated that he had a resource to make hats and shirts that could include the Chapter logo. He will provide additional information, including a quote.

**4. Conservation Committee Report:** The following pending projects were addressed by the members as indicated:

Middleton Road Culvert Replacement – GM reported that an article on this project had been submitted to TU National for inclusion in TROUT magazine. If accepted, the article may appear in the winter edition. GM also reported that the Town of Boxford intended to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new culvert, date TBD.

Mill River Habitat Assessment – GM reported that based on extensive Conservation Committee discussions, it was decided that we would gather another year of habitat data that would include information from an additional site: Great Swamp Brook (GSB). It is expected that the GSB data will enhance the results of the study with respect to Dissolved Oxygen in particular. We will also conduct a third macroinvertebrate study with the students from Governors Academy in May 2019.

Hood Pond Habitat Assessment & Pond Street Culvert Replacement – GM reported that IRWA had completed a three-year habitat study of Hood Pond to determine whether that Pond was suitable for alewife spawning and juvenile development. The study, which has been submitted to MA Division of Marine Fisheries has received preliminary approval. On October 10<sup>th</sup> GM attended a meeting of the Topsfield Cons Com with Ryan O’Donnell of IRWA to discuss the study and consider stream maintenance for fish passage into Hood Pond. GM also noted that a fish ladder on Howlett Brook and culvert replacement at Pond Street are component parts of this project, providing several opportunities for the Chapter to get involved and assist. An article on the project will appear in the next Chapter Newsletter.

Gravelly Brook Culvert Replacements – GM confirmed that the Town of Ipswich had obtained a grant for an engineering feasibility study for the replacement of the Gravelly Brook culvert that crosses under Ipswich Road/Topsfield Road, as written by IRWA. The Conservation Committee is pursuing further details of an approved plan to replace one of the failed culverts within the Willowdale Forest. If the plan is consistent with the Chapter’s mission and strategies, the Committee suggests that the Chapter should reconsider whether to provide some financial assistance to this project. Further details will be provide when available.

Headwaters Study – BM updated efforts to identify and survey local streams, including Great Swamp Brook which he had examined in recent weeks. BM also noted that there may be feeder streams into the Merrimack River which should also be surveyed as there are unconfirmed reports of possible native brook trout and salters in some of these streams. BM will send out invites when he has decided upon a location to explore.

Willowdale Fish Ladder – Chett Walsh confirmed that we would be leaving the frames in place through the winter.

**5. Upcoming Events:** JR noted that the P-I-E Rivers Annual Meeting will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and encouraged Chapter members to attend. Fred Jennings confirmed that he would be there.

**6. Other Matters:**

Communications – Jim Shimer will be working with JR to issue invitation letters to new Chapter members to attend future meetings and to become involved in Chapter events. JR will be using a form letter from TU National for this purpose.

Several corrections to the Chapter website were discussed including inconsistent emails, addresses and other details. Jim MacDougall will make corrections as instructed once proper details are confirmed. Issues with the Chapter’s Facebook page were also discussed.

Volunteer Hours – JR reported briefly on a volunteer hours report that had been prepared and circulated by PV, as submitted to TU National. The aggregate of over 1600 hours was noted as a positive step in supporting the Chapter’s Strategic Plan.

Board Membership – JR offered that Jim Shimer should be considered for Board membership. GM noted that he needed to check whether the Chapter had maxed out its Board seats as the number is limited under the Chapter By Laws. GM will report back on this point and check the terms of existing Board members to determine whether any seats may be opening up in the future.

Winter Fishing – JR suggested that the Chapter consider a local winter fishing excursion. Geoff Klane offered several locations that he was familiar with that could be fished in the winter months. Discussions are to continue outside of the meeting.

Give Where You Fish Promotion – GM noted a recent email soliciting donations to the Cape Cod and Deerfield River Chapters who have received Embrace-A-Stream grants from TU National. He explained that once a Chapter wins an EAS grant, it is eligible to compete for additional funds from a \$50,000 pool. Further awards are based on how many donors contribute to the Chapters during a limited window (November 6 – November 12). After discussion it was decided upon motion unanimously approved, that TU Nor’East would contribute \$100 to each of these Chapters as part of the donor competition. JR will explore the mechanism for making the donations and arrange for each.

Future Speakers – Several individuals were suggested as possible future speakers at Chapter meetings. These individuals and the Chapter member points of contact who will explore their availability are as follows:

1. Kevin Parsons (Deerfield River Chapter) – Fred Jennings
2. Rust Johnson (Merrimack River Watershed Association) – James Goodhart

3. James Goodhart's brother who is a guide in Alaska – James

4. Anabelle Archer (Herring Network) - BM

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the Meeting was offered and accepted at 8:40 PM.