

December 3, 2018 Meeting Minutes

President: Josh Rownd [JR]

Vice President: Ben Meade [BM]

Treasurer: Peter Vandermeulen [PV]

Secretary: Greg Murrer [GM]

ATTENDEES: Fred Boland, Geof Day, **James Goodhart**, **Fred Jennings**, **Geoff Klane**, Jim MacDougall, Bill Mann, **Ben Meade**, John Monaghan, **Greg Murrer**, Stephen Scarft, Jim Shimer, Joey Solomon, **Bob Torkildsen**, **Chett Walsh**, **David Walsh**, **Kenny Washburn***

*Bold denotes Board Members.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM.

Meeting Agenda

1. **Treasurer's Report:** JR briefly reviewed the Chapter's latest Financial Statement which had 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 November 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes were circulated to the attendees by prior email, and after review and upon motion duly seconded, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Middleton Road Culvert Replacement – GM noted that a final site review by FEMA, MEMA and the Town of Boxford will occur on December 4th. GM said he would attend. GM also noted that it may be necessary to line one side of the culvert with rocks to enable animal passage but that would likely be assessed after spring run-off in 2019.

Mill River Habitat Assessment – GM reported that students from Governors Academy will again participate in site work in May 2019. Their participation as part of the Academy's Capstone Program has already been approved. GM read an email from Lisa Borgatti (Academy science teacher) indicating that past student participants are pursuing degrees in environmental science, influenced in part, by their participation in the Mill River Assessment project.

Jim MacDougall and GM discussed their efforts in the past month to formulate a Grant Application to obtain data loggers that record pH and Dissolved Oxygen levels on a continuous basis with electronic data transmission features. These devices would be used for more detailed data collection as part of the ongoing habitat assessment of the Mill River. The Application is now complete and is being supported by IRWA and PRCWA. The Application will be submitted to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. Approval is not certain given that this is a competitive grant process.

Hood Pond Habitat Assessment & Pond Street Culvert Replacement – GM encouraged the attendees to read the article on the Hood Pond Project that appears in the Chapter’s December Newsletter. IRWA has received approval of its proposed stream Maintenance Plan from the Topsfield Conservation Committee. When weather conditions are more favorable, IRWA will conduct a site survey. Members of the Chapter have already volunteered to assist in the survey. Once work sites are selected, work will begin in the spring of 2019. Maintenance will be an annual exercise with opportunities for Chapter members to participate.

Jim MacDougall noted that invasive plants have been a problem at Hood Pond including water chestnut and, more recently, milfoil. Efforts are being made by MA DER to assess the situation and to formulate a management plan. Keeping invasives at bay is an important component of ensuring the Pond as suitable for alewives and herring.

4. Banquet Committee Report: Bob Torkildsen reminded the attendees that the Banquet is only four months away and that “save the date” post cards need to be sent soon. JR and Fred Jennings discussed card design and content, concluding that the TU National template should be used, with the back of the card left blank so that the Chapter could insert its own text. New cover art, different from the previous years, is preferable. JR will explore and select the TU artwork and Fred will assist in the set-up of the post cards for distribution. If possible, the Chapter’s new logo will appear on the card. GM suggested that the Power Point on the Middleton Road Culvert Project be set up as a continuous media loop at the Banquet. Bob Torkildsen concluded the discussion by reminding everyone of the need to secure booklet ads, make raffle donations and obtain table commitments. It was confirmed that ticket purchasing function on the Chapter’s website should be activated as soon as possible.

5. Upcoming Events: JR again noted that the P-I-E Rivers Annual Meeting will be held on December 6th and encouraged Chapter members to attend. JR and Fred Jennings confirmed that they would be there. GM noted that the Town of Boxford will lead a panel discussion on Boxford stream improvement projects, including those that the Chapter has supported.

JR reminded the attendees about the upcoming Marlborough Fly Fishing Show on January 18-20. Other winter shows were noted including the Manchester NH Show in February.

6. Other Matters:

Girl Scouts Fishing Outing – GM read an email from Rachael Schneider of IRWA seeking advice on how a fishing event for Girls Scout troops might be managed and whether the Chapter might be interested in assisting. After discussion it was agreed that this event was worthwhile and several suggestions were made as to location including Camp Denison (Georgetown), Camp Rotary (Boxford) and the Hamilton Wenham Rod & Gun Club. Bill Mann agreed to explore the possibilities at the Rod & Gun Club where he is a member. GM agreed to pass this information on to IRWA.

Custom Banquet Fly Rod – Goeff Klane prompted a discussion about the custom fly rod that he will build for the Banquet auction. Different lengths and weights were debated, concluding that a 4-weight, 8-foot graphite rod would likely have the most appeal. Goeff will identify the component parts of the rod and JR and PV will arrange for the parts to be purchased and delivered to Goeff for assembly.

Conservation Spending – PV observed that 2018 actual spending for conservation projects was only \$450. PV suggested that the Chapter ought to have greater annual expenditures and to demonstrate how such expenditures translate into meaningful contributions to conservation. Examples cited were the cost of acquiring a drone, with no drone footage available so far; and the cost of acquiring temperature sensors. It was noted by others that the value of in-kind contributions in 2018 devoted directly to conservation projects in 2018 was extraordinary and that a detailed presentation had been made at a recent Chapter meeting on data provided by temperature sensors deployed within the Mill River Watershed.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the Meeting was offered and accepted at 9:10 PM.