

Pleasant Bay Alliance Steering Committee
March 10, 2015

Attending: Chris Miller, Allin Thompson, Judith Bruce, Fran McClennen, Chuck Bartlett, Dolly Howell

Minutes of February 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.

Coordinator's Report:

1. Cadmus has initiated its work on the statistical analysis of water quality data. A kick off phone call was held on 2/19. A conference call to discuss Cadmus's preliminary review of data for outliers and duplicate samples was held on 3/6. Cadmus reported finding very few data points that appear to be outliers, another indication that the data set is robust. Cadmus is aware of interest in discerning trends that may be attributable to the 2007 inlet. Also, it was stressed that an accessible executive summary will be an important part of the final report. A draft report is expected during the week of April 6th. A final report is due by the end of April.

2. A concept paper to develop a combined analysis of the four towns' respective nutrient management plans as they relate to Pleasant Bay was discussed. The concept paper had been circulated to a work group member from each town, and any comments received were incorporated. Carole noted that this analysis was a logical progression in the Alliance's role in promoting regional coordination, and is a step that towns are not likely to undertake individually. The 208 One Cape meeting included presentations about the need and plans for watershed teams to address nutrient loading. Chris noted that undertaking this study would give the four towns an independent assessment that factors in local priorities. It was agreed that any such study would need to be coordinated with the Cape Cod Commission, DEP and EPA. Judith questioned the need for the study. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Carole should prepare an outline of tasks that would be undertaken as part of the study, and examples of how the information generated by the study would be used. This will be taken up at the next Steering Committee meeting.

3. A draft comment letter on the Orleans Hybrid Plan was discussed. The letter was based on comments from the February 25th Work Group meeting attended by Mike Dominica and Sia Karplus, as well as comments sent to Carole subsequently. The compiled comments had been distributed to Work Group members who attended the meeting on the 25th, and comments had been incorporated. Fran objected to the letter's tone and content, and opposed it's being sent. After further discussion there was no consensus from the Steering Committee to send a letter of comment.

4. A request for funding for the NOAA tide gage at the Fish Pier was discussed. Ted Keon had contacted Carole to ask whether the Alliance could contribute toward a \$12,000 maintenance cost required to keep the gage in operation by NOAA. Tide

gage data is used by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, which is under contract by the Alliance to undertake annual monitoring and analysis of tide gage data throughout the system. NOAA will only repair the gage if there is a commitment for more than a year of operation, which requires the \$12,000 commitment. Support for keeping the NOAA gage, instead of a downloadable gage such as is installed at Meetinghouse Pond, is that it is tied into the NOAA network, is from a verifiable source, and is available in real time. Over the coming year, options will be explored for permanent funding for NOAA, or for replacing it with a more comparable gage that would allow access to data in real time. A motion was made a seconded to contribute \$3,000 to fund the gage maintenance cost., and this passed unanimously.

5. The proposal for parking at Ryder's Cove was discussed. Chuck noted that the CPC has amended its vote to fund \$300,000 for the park portion of the project, and the remaining \$600,000 for parking may be the subject of a second article at Town Meeting. It was agreed that no action by the Alliance is needed at this time.

6. Carole reported that an update presentation on the three part fisheries studies underway by the Center for Coastal Studies would be held on Friday, April 24th at 10 am. She will confirm the location in the near future.

Allin adjourned the meeting a 5:50 pm.

Signed



Date

4/14/15