

Meeting Minutes
Herring River Executive Council (HREC)
Thursday, June 16, 2022, 3:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

HREC members present: Geoff Sanders, Helen Miranda Wilson, Janet Reinhart, Brian Carlstrom;
Coordinator: Carole Ridley; Others present: Christine Odiaga, Martha Craig, Gail Ferguson, David Koonce,
Josh Yeston, Jackie Fouse.

Minutes

Following the meeting welcome and introductions, the minutes of March 17, 2022 were approved by consensus a majority of members present.

Herring River Restoration Project Update

Carole Ridley provided the following project updates.

Permitting Update:

Environmental permitting is nearly concluded. The Wellfleet Conservation Commission has issued an Order of Conditions approving the project as an Ecological Restoration Limited Project. The Town of Truro Conservation Commission has voted to issue an Order of Conditions, and it has not yet been issued. Once Orders of Condition are issued, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection can issue Chapter 91 Waterways Licenses. The licenses should be issued in the coming one to two months.

Fundraising Update:

Fundraising awards to date include:

- \$2M grant award to Ducks Unlimited for pre-construction vegetation and marsh management on Cape Cod National Seashore property
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) award to the Town of Wellfleet for approximately \$29M for Financial & Technical Assistance for Phase 1 construction.
- A significant award from Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration is anticipated in August. This award should be sufficient to cover non-federal match requirements associated with the NRCS award and potential future federal grant awards.
- National Park Service has identified funding to complete final design of the Mill Creek Water Control Structure

The National Park Foundation is expected to announce funding for pre-construction vegetation management. NOAA is expected to issue a federal funding opportunity in June for which the project will be eligible to apply. A presentation on project funding will be made to the Wellfleet Selectboard on June 28.

Construction Management:

Bidding for the Chequessett Neck Road bridge is expected to be advertised by the Town of Wellfleet in July. A contractor could be selected by August/September 2022, with site mobilization in late 2022 or early 2023. The Town will be advertising for an Owners Project Representative position to assist with construction oversight. This will be a grant funded position reporting to the Town.

The final design for the Chequessett Neck Road bridge was presented to the Wellfleet Selectboard on June 7th. Final design plans need to be completed by June 30th to comply with the grant funding for the work. Based on the discussion with the Selectboard, there will be ongoing discussion about a number of

aesthetic options for the bridge including:

Exterior Treatments: Stone Cladding / Stained Concrete Formlining

Timber Pedestrian Railing: Pressure-Treated/Cedar Timber vs. Metal

Gate Control/Monitoring Equipment Enclosure

Benches and Plantings

Pigmenting/Staining Other Concrete Structures (e.g., vehicle safety barriers, water access steps)

Options will be included in the bid package but the town does not have to opt to take them and the decision on exterior treatments does not need to be made for several months. The HREC members expressed the view that a simple approach to project treatments, for example concrete instead of cladding, should be pursued.

The potential construction timeline for the bridge project was reviewed:

- Fall 2022 – Summer 2023: Construct Temporary Bypass Bridge
- Summer 2023 – Winter 2023: Construct Southern Bridge Pier and Abutment Area
- Winter 2023 – Summer 2024 : Construct Northern Bridge Pier and Abutment Area
- Summer 2024 – Spring 2025: Construct Bridge Superstructure, Roadway and Duck Harbor Road Water Access Facility

Josh Yestin was recognized and asked if the temporary bridge would be the only route to Griffin Island during the two-year construction period. Carole Ridley confirmed yes, and later added that the bridge has been sized for emergency vehicles. Christine Odiaga noted that the final design plans include specifications for the bridge, but the exact design is up to the winning contractor. Visualizations of what the temporary bridge could look like using specifications are available at the Friends of Herring River office for anyone interested. The temporary bridge will be able to transport heavy equipment for any projects property owners may have during the construction period.

Easements and Land Transfers:

It was noted that Wellfleet Town Meeting approved Article 38 taking temporary and permanent easements. A final order of taking will be presented to the Selectboard and then recorded. The Town-Seashore land transfer remains under discussion. Truro Town meeting adopted Article 30 for the taking of one easement. A Truro-Wellfleet Inter-municipal Agreement for the roadwork in Truro remains under discussion.

The proposed project timeline is to begin construction on the Chequessett Neck Road bridge in 2022. This would require that the project element go out to bid in the spring, with a contractor selected in the summer. Work on the low roads and golf course would proceed roughly a year later.

HREC Member Announcements:

Geoff Sanders acknowledged the great work of the volunteer herring counters this year.

Brian Carlstrom noted that he has briefed regional leadership of the National Park Service about the vegetation work to be undertaken with NAWCA funding and they are strongly supportive. It was noted that September would be a good time to review the vegetation management plan that Tim Smith and others are preparing.

Public Comment

Gail Ferguson expressed appreciation that the project is nearly through the permitting phase, and moving closer toward construction and restoration.

Next Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the next HREC meeting should be conducted via Zoom.

The following meeting dates were agreed to for 2022, with other meetings to be scheduled if needed:

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 3:00 pm

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 3:00 pm

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm.

Minutes approved by HREC on September 15, 2022

Submitted by Carole Ridley

Herring River Executive Council

June 16, 2022

The meeting will be recorded by the HREC. Anyone else desiring to record the meeting may do so only after notifying the HREC and may not interfere with the conduct of the meeting in doing so.



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of minutes: March 17, 2022
- Herring River Restoration Project update
- HREC member announcements
- Public comment
- Next meeting dates
- Adjourn

Approval of Minutes

- March 17, 2022

Project Updates - Permitting

- MEPA Certificate and Record of Decision - 2016
- Cape Cod Commission Development Regional Impact approval - 2020
- §401 Water Quality Certification - 2021
- Approval under §404 General Permit – 2021
- US Coast Guard Advance Approval - 2021
- Notice of Intent for Ecological Restoration Limited Project (ERLP)
- MGL Ch. 91 Waterways Licenses (pending)

Project Updates - Fundraising

Fundraising

- NAWCA ≈\$2M grant – Ducks Unlimited
- NRCS ≈\$29M award of Financial & Technical Assistance
- MassDER (award anticipated in August)
- NOAA federal funding opportunity anticipated in June
- NPS/NPF funding for vegetation management and final design

June 28 Selectboard presentation of funding plan

Project Updates – Construction Management

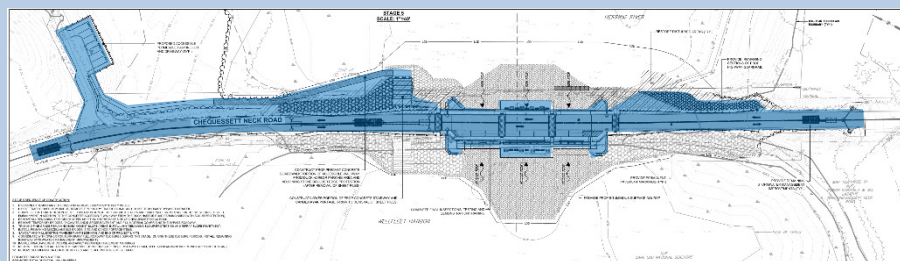
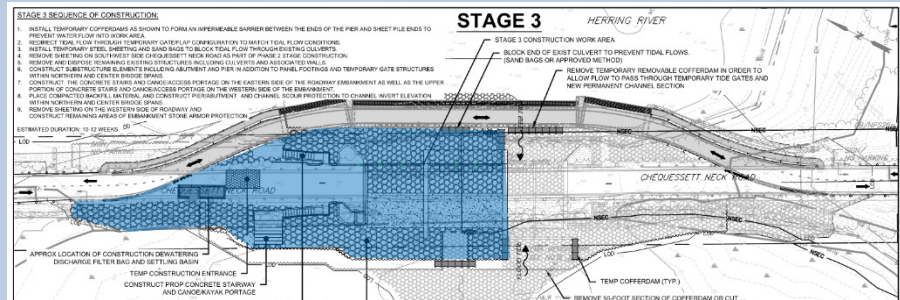
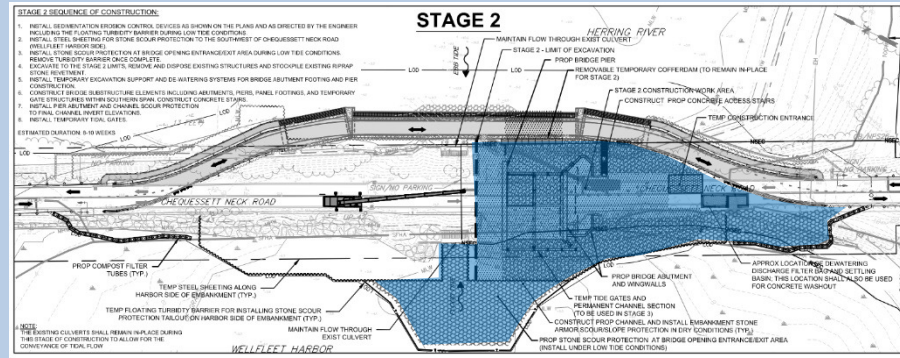
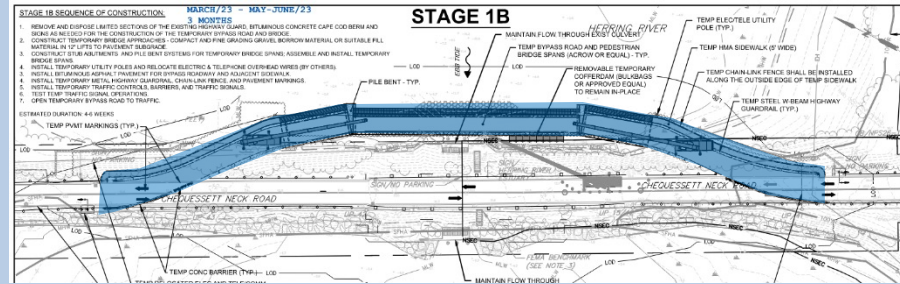
- Bidding to be advertised and administered by Town
 - CNR Bridge bid package advertised (est. July 2022)
 - Contractor selection/contract (est. August/September 2022)
 - Site mobilization and vegetation work (est. late Fall 2022/Winter 2023)
- Grant funded support
 - Owners Project Representative – grant funded position to assist Town with construction oversight. RFP issued soon.
 - CNR construction bids will be reviewed for compliance by Fuss & O’Neill

CNR Bridge Final Design Issues & Process

- Final design has been coordinated with DPW Director
 - Review of final drawings and specifications ongoing for June 30 completion
 - Provisions for post-construction operation/maintenance and monitoring undergoing review
 - Review aesthetic options established within bid/contract structure with Town & community members
 - Exterior Treatments: Stone Cladding / Stained Concrete Formlining
 - Timber Pedestrian Railing: Pressure-Treated/Cedar Timber vs. Metal
 - Gate Control/Monitoring Equipment Enclosure
 - Benches and Plantings
 - Pigmenting/Staining Other Concrete Structures (e.g., vehicle safety barriers, water access steps)

Anticipated Construction Timeline

- Fall 2022 – Summer 2023
Construct Temporary Bypass Bridge
- Summer 2023 – Winter 2023
Construct Southern Bridge Pier and Abutment Area
- Winter 2023 – Summer 2024
Construct Northern Bridge Pier and Abutment Area
- Summer 2024 – Spring 2025
Construct Bridge Superstructure, Roadway and Duck Harbor Road Water Access Facility



Project Updates – Easements & Land Transfers

Wellfleet

- Article 38 approved by Town Meeting
- Town-Seashore Land Transfer under discussion

Truro

- Article 30 approved by Town Meeting
- Truro-Wellfleet IMA under discussion

HREC Member Announcements

Public Comments

- (15 minutes)
- *Any discussion of an issue not on the agenda that is raised in the public comment section shall be limited to whether that issue should be placed on a future agenda.*

Next Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 15, 2022, 3:00 pm
- Thursday, December 15, 2022, 3:00 pm

Adjourn