

**MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM**  
**Minutes of January 13, 2025**  
**Virtual, 7:30 pm**

Members present: Jessica Lamothe, Chair; Lynn Atkinson; Francie Caudill; Chris Comb; Deb Fraize; Patti Mitchell

Also present: Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch; Melissa Flinn

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

**Current Business**

Meeting with Board of Health: Lynn and Francie will meet with the BOH administrator E. Lufkin on January 24 to discuss Kettle Cove bacteria levels and septic system mapping updates.

Fish discussion:

- Members of the Stream Team met with Brian Kelder of NOAA and Greg Federspiel to talk about the preliminary proposal we submitted to the Trustees of the Gloucester Former Gas Light Company settlement program. We were advised that proposals should focus on projects that implement restoration work, rather than research or data gathering, and show ecological benefit with a link to Gloucester Harbor, site of the injury.
- Discussion ensued concerning how our proposed focus on water quality and flow in our streams, as well as improving diadromous fish passage, would fit these criteria.
- B. Warren brought up the 2016 Coastal Zone Management Report completed for our Town by consultants Tighe and Bond. That report was focused on projects that would mitigate future flooding in the face of climate change, but they would also provide water quality and habitat benefits as well as help restore diadromous fish passage. <file:///C:/Users/persb/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/GMGWX33U/FinalReport-SawmillBrookCulvert-GI-06.30.16.pdf>
- Jessica suggested that we each look at this extensive report before our next meeting in order to prioritize specific projects we should name in our proposal.
- Chris asked Jessica for a recap of our meeting with the superintendent of the ECC. Jessica said that the most promising area of interest appeared to be the behind the old Lincoln Street well (on the golf course side) where the land remains boggy even during drought. There may be opportunities there to create a pond or more water storage for the fish. We will try to set up a February meeting with the superintendent and some fish experts to discuss.
- Francie asked Chris to explain the AI/video camera project which might assist in identifying species of fish, their numbers, and movement in our streams. He gave us a link to the company InnovaSea, <https://www.innovasea.com/hydroai-fish-counting-system/> which Cell Signaling Technology has offered to fund in Sawmill Brook this spring. There will be an on-the-ground meeting in March with representatives from InnovaSea, Geof Day and CST members. Details will be shared with Stream Team members when available.

- We had a brief discussion of the HOBO data that Lynn had provided. She felt confident that the HOBO's were in better locations this year and that the data shows nice cold water, even during the drought, reinforcing why the fish are there.

#### **Updates from other committees Stream Team members sit on**

- Patti reported that Open Space and Recreation is discussing signage at Powderhouse Hill trail heads, as well as parking at Newport Park's trail access points. She also reported the exciting news that Essex County Greenbelt has finalized acquisition of the land that protects upper Cat Brook and surrounding wetlands.

#### **Salem Sound Coastwatch Updates**

- The winter lecture series "Underwater in Salem Sound" will be presented on the third Wednesday eve of each month this winter, with many topics of interest. Lectures will be available virtually and later as recordings. Register on Marblehead's Abbott Library website for links to the meeting. The February 19 lecture will be on eDNA.
- For all SSCW events, see [salemsound.org](http://salemsound.org)

The minutes of December 2, 2024 were approved.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7 pm.**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm  
Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill