

**MINUTES**  
**Highland Lake Leadership Team**  
**October 26, 2022 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
*Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District*  
*Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and Virtual)*

**Attending:**

- Dennis Brown, Chair and Highland Lake Association President
- Tom Verlee, HLLT Member
- Alaina Chormann, Maine DEP Watershed Management Unit
- Pat Ianni (virtual), Highland Lake resident (22 years)
- Jeff Dennis (virtual), Maine DEP Watershed Management Unit
- Diann Wood (virtual), HLLT member
- Theresa Galvin, Town of Falmouth Sustainability Coordinator
- Kevin McElearney (virtual), HLLT Member and HLA Vice President and Treasurer
- Hope Cahan, Town of Falmouth Councilor
- Jarrod Maxfield, HLLT Member and Town of Windham Councilor
- Jamie Wiley – Former PWD Board of Trustees, Portland resident
- Peter LaFond, Town of Falmouth Councilor
- Heather Hunt, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ali Clift, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Item 1. Agenda Modifications**

To include approval of last meeting's minutes and Ordinance Committee Updates

**Item 2. Public Comment - None**

**Item 3: Review prior HLLT Minutes – Approved unanimously**

**Item 4. Committee Reports**

**1. Water Quality (Kevin and Dennis)**

- Secchi and TP readings
  - Secchi readings– back to 1990 levels!
  - Decrease of TP since the bloom years
    - Likely due to fixes and education efforts
    - Horse farm no longer active and manure pile removed (50lbs of P per year per horse)
    - New owner for former Ashland Farms parcel, has no plans for horses, perhaps a development yet would need to meet Falmouth strict standards
    - Couldn't get tributary readings this year due to low water levels
- Still reviewing the blooms and potential source
  - Cheryl Mann working with HLA as graduate student
  - Looking at picocyanobacteria, green algae, and trophic stages
  - Number of alewives has continued to drop
    - Peaked in 2018 to 64K, about 40K in general
    - Only 8K this year
  - More to be discussed at future water quality meeting – to report out in the spring
- Questions/Discussion:
  - Pat: Has Windham and Falmouth incorporated LID standards into new developments?
    - Hope: Falmouth has not

- Heather/Ali: There are new MS4 permit requirements for incorporating stormwater LID ordinances in Windham and Falmouth
- Jeff: These draft LID ordinance do not appear to be very enforceable as some elements are not well-defined (i.e. Language says to minimize IC, but not quantitative)
  - Phosphorus allocations permitted within the Highland Lake watershed are stricter than the State's Chapter 500 requirements so LIDs will need to be incorporated to meet these allocations
  - Best approach is to require a meeting with developer and Town prior to development plans starting / prior to having an engineer design the site, arrive to meeting with topography, soils, and wetlands information – can save costs
  - Design roads so they need to have bridges – roads would sheet off runoff, and use vegetated buffers which don't have to be constructed properly to function
- Dennis: Ordinance Committee to look into this further

## 2. Ordinance Committee (Dennis)

- Have nutrient management proposal in front of Falmouth Town Council
  - Proposal is for one or more units of livestock to need plan to include covered manure storage
  - This draft proposed ordinance was presented to Falmouth by HLLT Ordinance Committee (Dennis says it should have gone to whole HLLT first)
    - Ethan Croce from Falmouth is on the HLLT Ordinance Committee
    - Department of Agriculture has seen the proposed ordinance
    - Same version went to the Town as was reviewed last spring with some things taken out (Jeff/DEP had seen the spring version)
- Short-term rental and septic systems
  - Want to push for short-term rentals to have newer septic systems (no cesspools) and not be allowed to advertise for housing more guests than the septic system was designed for
- Point-system
  - Want to explore requiring that the point system be met during change of ownership
- Septic Inspections
  - State-level requirements exist during owner transfer, yet if these aren't being done, perhaps the towns should be doing them
  - Also want to clarify what is being required of an inspection
- Date selections to go out in the next couple of weeks to determine when next meeting will be held

## 3. Watershed Management Committee (Heather)

- Updates from last meeting held on 8/2/2022
  - Looked at remaining sites from NPS site tracker to address and best avenue for addressing them
  - 319 grant wrapping up this year, had some unused funds from Overlook Road project and Ashland Farms to allocate to
    - Reed Property – Bottom of Overlook Road, completed
    - End of Percy Hawkes Road – Just completed
    - Haven Road at Lyden Way – In the works
  - Dennis, Kevin, and John MacKinnon reaching out to road associations to determine future needs and if a 319 will be pursued in the spring
- Next meeting to be scheduled for early next year to review WMP action items, milestones, and goals and determine if any plan modifications should occur

## 4. Education and Outreach (Ali)

- Meets every other month, met October 4<sup>th</sup>

- BMP factsheet completed and on website
  - Annual evaluation was done around summer meeting; Looked at what channels people use to find info on watershed
- Planning to be done this winter:
  - Field video in spring and summer to highlight BMPs around the lake (both for demo purposes and to give kudos to property owners)
  - Garden center partnership to be set up again (Making sure they have info for good native plants to put in buffers)
  - Will be identifying tasks for FY2024
- Dennis: Lake-friendly landscaping presentation held on 5/24/22 and Lake-friendly Living Handouts created and available for other lakes to use; Boat tour of Little Sebago Lake held with LSLA to share ideas of what works from each, discussed lake association marketing, and looked at land uses and differences between the two towns

### 5. Item 5. Additional Topics

- Road Association connections (Dennis)
  - Looking for individual road association advocates
  - Difficulties: Many residents of private roads don't have lake access
  - Most roads with 10 residents or more have road associations
  - More roads in Windham than Falmouth (In Windham, if under public easement, are plowed by the Town)

### 6. Item 6. Next Meeting

- Next HLLT to be held in late April early May 2023

### 7. Item 7. Adjourn.