

Meeting Minutes
Weir River Estuary Park Committee
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 4:30pm
Remote - Call in Meeting

This is a Tri-Town Committee, appointed by the Boards of Selectmen for Cohasset, Hingham and Hull, not a non-profit Watershed Association. Formed in 2002 approved in 2005, the goals of the WREP Committee are; to **Preserve** the rare and idyllic setting, **Expand** public access and low impact recreational opportunities, **Protect** the historical and geological integrity, **Protect** and restore natural resources and biological diversity, **Conserve** a contiguous corridor of open space and healthy habitats, **Develop** educational opportunities and foster stewardship, **Establish** Community support for land and estuarine habitat protection and maintain working relationships with Town Selectmen, Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards and Advisory, Open Space and Harbor Development committees, local Land Trusts, Land preservation organizations, and related regional state and federal agencies.

- 1) **Call to Order:** by chair Scott Plympton (Hul), Dick Avery (Coh), Tom Bell (Coh), Judeth Van Hamm (Hul), and Sharon Allen (Hin) Meg Nash (Hin) were present. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM. The public attendees introduced themselves.
- 2) **Quorum / Minutes:** There was a quorum, and we were able to approve the minutes from our meeting on November 18, 2025
- 3) **Updates by Town:**

- **Hull:**

- a. Eastman Road Trail to the Island. Hull Conservation Dept oversees this effort. Chris Kraforst was planning to do some initial trail development but will wait until weather permits. We are expecting that the DPW will provide construction assistance.
- b. Waterfront Access Study Group. Scott reports that the committee has completed its study and will be applying to CPA for funding of a painted stencil that will identify public access points. The committee will also deliver online and possible paper maps for the public.
- c. Weir River Woods Kiosk Repair. The project to rebuild the information kiosk has stalled due to a change in staff at the High School. The former teacher has the funds for the project and is seeking Cohasset Scouts to collaborate on the project.
- d. Hull Redevelopment Authority: This committee is concerned with any possible development in an ACEC along the estuary.
- e. Weir River Woods Walks: Judeth reports that following the WRWA annual meeting she now has 3 volunteers and hopes to restart the monthly 'Woods Walk' after the new year. These walks will provide the public with education and awareness of our woods.

- **Hingham:**

- New Member: We welcomed Meg Nash as the newest committee representative from Hingham.
- West Corner History: The Straits Pond Watershed Assoc. produced an excellent exhibition on the history of Straits Pond and West Corner. Representatives from Hingham would like to display the exhibit. Maureen Koelsh has the materials and will follow up with committee in 2 weeks.

- Senior Center on Back River: Anita Ryan is leading an effort to stop development of a proposed Senior Center in the conservation area in the Back River and would like our support as we have shared concerns.

- **Cohasset:**
 - a. Cohasset Sidewalk at Straits Pond: Proposal to construct sidewalks from the Greek Church to Black Rock Beach. They propose 3 sections for development as it is extremely dangerous to walk along the road as it enters a rock canyon. This is good for the public and advances our efforts for a sidewalk around the pond. ** Action: We should send them a letter of support.
 - b. Rattlesnake Run Development: Developers are starting over with their efforts to build 26 houses in the only freshwater source to Straits Pond. We are watching.
 - c. Water Quality: The Commonwealth has deemed that the waters in the Weir River Estuary are 'clean enough' for shellfish harvesting. This is a Major Milestone! The Pond is clean. Town's will need to develop regulations and enforcement. We discussed how the with the added salinity from the tidal gate improvements, Straits Pond no longer freezes over like it used to. We now have reduced midges with higher salinity.

- **Annual Report:**
 - Scott will draft the Annual Report and send it out for group approval. March 1st deadline.

Public Discussion:

- Sewers on Worlds End: Clark Frasier notes that sewers are in the works for Worlds End, eliminating all septic systems. Clark also advises the committee to be watchful for potential development at Bass Point on the estuary.

4) Next Meeting:

- a) Next meeting is on **Tuesday, Mar 24, 2026**, at 4:30 PM. This will be a Zoom call.
- b) Agenda to include updates by town.
- c) Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.