

NEAP TIDE NEWS

Protecting the Future of Belfast Bay DECEMBER 2020 • P.O. Box 465, Belfast, Maine 04915 • hartleyconservationarea@gmail.com

Legal Update: The FHLH Legal team has filed their final motions relating to TRI (title, right and interest) issues. A pre-trial hearing is set for December 23, 2020. Your continued support is critical to sustain our legal challenge. Please consider making a donation <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/friends-of-harriet-l-hartley>

Nordic Permits Update

STATE LEVEL: November 19th, the Board of Environmental Protection issued permits with numerous conditions for Nordic's air quality, wastewater discharge, and site development activities along with water quality certification. Nordic still needs a submerged lands lease from the Bureau of Parks and Lands and a permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

LOCAL LEVEL: The Belfast Planning Board is preparing its final recommendations on Nordic's municipal permits. The Board met on December 3 and 9 and will meet several more times this month to finalize permit conditions before delivering their recommendations to City Council.

Is Searsport Ready for Dredging Disposal?

The short answer is no. Nordic wants to lay pipelines in a trench through the intertidal zone and the submerged lands controlled by the state. They have told the DEP that their plan is to load the extra sediment and rock from the trenching onto barges, and then tow the barges to Searsport, where they will unload the "spoils" at an appropriate storage facility before shipping the debris to an approved landfill by truck. What's wrong with this plan? Searsport officials report that 1: they have no storage facility capable of taking Nordic's dredge spoils and 2: they have not received any notice from Nordic that they plan to unload, store, and transfer spoils from barges for on-land disposal.

CMP System Upgrades: Who Pays for It?

CMP recently disclosed that they cannot supply the power that Nordic requires without upgrading its high-voltage transmission lines. Estimated cost? \$63.3 million, \$5.1 million of which is Maine's share. Since the upgrade project has been on CMP's list since 2007, none of the cost will be billed directly to Nordic, although the company's 2019 request for 21 megawatts makes Nordic as large a consumer as Bath Iron Works. Only improvement to CMP's local grid that are specific to Nordic's needs would be paid for by Nordic. Read more about this latest development in The Free Press here: <http://freepressonline.com/Content/Download-the-current-issue-as-a-pdf/Features/Article/-span-style-font-weight-bold-Nordic-Aquafarms-span-Connected-to-Proposed-63M-CMP-Upgrade/93/78/71583?s=1>



December 10, The Vigil to Protect Our Bay marked its two-year anniversary of weekly demonstrations on "Protest Corner" in downtown Belfast. Thanks you for your steadfast commitment.

Thank you to the organizers of The First Annual We Love the Bay Poetry and Music Celebration. Below is a piece shared by one of Belfast's gifted poets.

Prayer for Peace

*The tender and I, meeting as we do
On the edge of an immaculate sea.
Trading waves.
The sound of the tilted tide like taffeta
In the back of a '65 Impala.
Everyday he comes to check his traps
to see who has entered. Every day
I come to make sure the sea has returned.
So far so good.
The rocks I pile are tiny. Stone
Next to whisper, shell upon shell,
The barnacle lifted onto a prayer of shale.
The stupa grows.
Beloved Bay,
Steadfast and surprising,
breaks no treaties, brushes all stones.
And what lies beneath the surface?
If we listen, the magnificent uprising.
As sure as the moon's pull carries the sea.*

-meredith bruskin

2020 Annual Meeting Report

On Sunday, Oct 3, a beautiful Maine fall day with a bit of a nip in the air, members and friends gathered at the home of Judith Grace and Jeffrey Mabee for the second Annual Meeting of FHLH. President Sid Block opened the meeting. Ellie Daniels reported the status of our fundraising effort, and new Board members Doug Miska, Jamie Phillips, Pat Gladding and Cecile Greider were elected.

The progress of the proposed eel grass restoration project was reviewed, with Paul Bernacki letting us know that there is grant money available and he will continue to lead this effort.

Andy Stevenson helped us understand the latest developments in the regulatory process NAF is required to complete. Of primary interest was Kim Ervin-Tucker's update on the ongoing legal case against Nordic regarding the right, title and interest claim of Grace and Mabee to the disputed intertidal zone.

Then, off in the distance, came the wafting notes of a sea shanty...and a flotilla of kayaks coming to join us. They had paddled down from Belfast to celebrate a Penobscot Bay that, with the efforts of many, we will work to preserve.



Lest you think we are alone...

While working on the intertidal zone issue, FHLH members have made connections with many other like-minded individuals and organizations concerned with the health of Penobscot Bay and surrounding areas.

The knowledge and experience they have to share is helpful and inspiring. We are going to continue to invite guest speakers to the monthly Member Meetings we hold on the first Monday of each month.

At our November meeting, Dwayne Shaw, of the Downeast Salmon Federation <https://www.mainesalmonrivers.org/>, talked about the interplay between the removal of many of the hundreds of dams, most of which were built a century ago, and the restoration of the wild Atlantic Salmon

population and other endangered species. What a captivating story he shared about the process and politics of dam removal! We plan to invite him back soon.

In December, we hosted Ron Huber, who has been advocating for Penobscot Bay for more than two decades and who founded the Friends of Penobscot Bay. Ron gave us a chronology of the history of threats and activist response around the Bay. It was sobering but also uplifting to realize how continuously people, like ourselves, have been stepping up to fight corporate and industrial development in order to protect our beautiful coastline and waters. Follow his blog at <https://penobscotbay.blogspot.com/>

Our next Members Meeting will be Monday, January 4th, at 6:00 pm by ZOOM. If you are on our e-list, you will get an invitation and a link to the meeting. If you are not on the list, you can find it on our Facebook page.



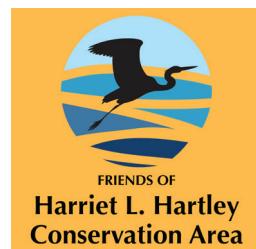
Fantastic News!

Since our Annual Meeting in October we have received donations from 118 people at an average of \$284 each, totaling \$33,576! This is no small group of opponents.

This is a significant amount of people of all backgrounds and livelihoods, and we are growing! We share a common concern and love for this community, the Bay, and the planet. We are deeply grateful for your continued support, without which we could not continue to fight. Thank you!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

We are grateful for the goodwill, compassion and self-sacrifice that have sustained us through the collective darkness of this past year. The Friends of the Harriet L Hartley Conservation Area hope and pray that healing, health, and happiness will brighten each of your lives in the year to come. Please, continue to stay safe.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sidney Block, President
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