



Town of Casco

Water Quality Committee Agenda

April 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Casco Community Center

Initial Meeting

Call meeting to order

Committee members present:

- Tom McCarthy
- Sarah Monarch
- Pam Edwards
- Levi Thorton
- Jim Arshman (on Zoom)
- Eileen Tidd
- Diane Cormier
- Maggie Daigle

1. Self Introduction of members with a brief background

Each member introduced themselves, where they live, and gave a brief history of their professional background, skills they could bring to the committee, and interest in being on the committee. The common theme between all members is that everyone has a special interest in keeping the communities' lakes clean, most members live on a lake in Casco, making it a personal priority as well. There were representatives from several Lake Associations including Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association, Thomas Pond Association and Thompson Lake Environmental Association.

2. Review of the focus areas presented to the selectboard to establish the Ad Hoc Committee

Tom went over the list of 5 areas of focus to be worked on by the Ad Hoc Committee. The focus areas were formed after the CPIC hosted a panel discussion in September with representatives from the local Lake Associations and the Portland Water District. The areas of focus are as follows, prevention, water quality testing, inspection, education and outreach and funding.

3. Each member to provide their thoughts on the goals and priorities for the committee

After reviewing the Areas of Focus each member was each given the opportunity to discuss our personal goals and priorities for the committee. Overall, everyone's input was aligned with the Areas of Focus. Key points that were brought up by most members

were phosphorus issues, erosion, invasive species, education, stormwater management, watershed surveys, and septic tanks. Jim spoke of how we need to work closely with the CEO and other town officials to ensure water quality is a priority. Tom elaborated on the issue of stormwater runoff and the need to address the sanding/salting of the roads and how educating road associations could help combat this problem. The issue of untreated septic tanks was discussed, and the effects an unmaintained septic system can have on water quality and the potential need to create an ordinance about septic maintenance. We discussed the need for education and eradication of products containing Phosphorus, Diane proposed the idea for local hardware stores to have a “lake safe” section of lawn care supplies. Educational opportunities at local summer camps and signage at beaches was also a topic proposed by Elieen. Overall, the committee’s priorities and goals were similar and maintained the interests of the Areas of Focus.

4. Selection of a Vice Chairperson and Secretary for the committee

Tom McCarthy was selected as Chairman, Sarah Monarch was selected for the Vice Chairperson, and Levi Thorton was selected as the Secretary. It was decided Sarah will do the minutes for 3 months to create a baseline of minutes which Levi can use as an example in the future.

5. Establish meeting dates, times, and frequency

Overall, it was concluded that Wednesdays at 6 pm is the best day for all committee members to meet. The committee will meet once a month at the Casco Community Center. The week of the month in which the meetings take place is yet to be determined. The next meeting will be held on May 15th. Diane will reach out to the Town office to let them know of our meeting plans.

6. Discussion of the next steps and set Agenda for the next meeting.

There was discussion about the next steps for the committee, our mission, what we should do between now and the next meeting and plans for the Agenda. Regarding the next steps for the committee, it was decided we should all begin to do research into the various Areas of Focus to familiarize ourselves with water quality data, Lake Associations, prevention methods, local ordinances, funding, ect. Pam will create a Google Drive where members can upload pertinent documents to be shared with the committee. Our plan between now and next month’s meeting is to gain knowledge on the Areas of Focus and compile somewhat of a database the committee can use as a refence going forward.

We worked to formulate next meetings Agenda. The Agenda will go as follows,

- allocate tasks from the focus area list to committee members to work on individually or in pairs.
- Identify contact information for all Lake Associations in Casco and make a list or map of all waterbodies in Casco.
- Develop a timeline for the draft plan to present to select board.

- Discuss information/data currently available- Pam will create a google drive for members to add documents to over the next month.
- Review the Towns' policies of the expectations of its committees/boards.
- Identify goals/mission.

7. Action Items :

- Pam Edwards: Establish the google shared drive for the CWQC.
- Tom McCarthy: Place the Agenda format on the Shares drive
- Pam Edwards: Place a copy of the Casco Boards and Committee Policy and Procedures on the googledrive
- Daigle: Develop a map of Casco showing all Lakes and ponds.
- All members:
 - Prepare their areas of interest and sub-goals for the water quality plan sections for next meeting
 - Review Lake Stewards and other lake organization websites to familiarize with available resources
 - Upload relevant documents and data to the shared Google Drive once established
 - Reach out to their respective associations for input on committee discussions
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8. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm

Reminders to the Attending Public: The Water Quality Committee meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak unless recognized by the Committee Chair or Vice Chair in their absence. Except during a public hearing, comment time is limited to 2 minutes per speaker during public participation or on agenda items. Matters related to personnel will not be heard.

Future meeting dates (subject to change)

Month DD, YYYY at HH:MM PM Meeting Name

To be determined