

MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM
Minutes of January 5, 2026
Virtual, 7:00 pm

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

Absent: Chris Comb

Also present: Carl Soderland of NE Trout Unlimited; Alison Frye, SSCW; Susan Marsh, SSCW; Barbara Warren

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, and introduced those present.

Current Business

Fish talk

- Jessica mentioned that Geof Day is interested in determining the “head of tide” location in Sawmill Brook; Barbara offered that it is approximately where Norwood Ave. passes over the brook.
- Carl says that his organization is planning to submit an application for a grant to fund an expanded eDNA survey of fish species in Essex County, and will add Sawmill Brook to the list of streams to be surveyed. Barbara noted that a Division of Marine Fisheries survey of Chubb Creek, Bennett Brook and Sawmill Brook was done in 1988-1990. She is sending a link to the data to all of us.
- Alison and Susan met recently with Wayne Castonguay about the interest the Division of Marine Fisheries has in opening shellfish areas near Boston; they are working on developing the regulations, as these areas have been closed for decades. The Salem Sound Area is said to be of interest also.

Follow-up on meeting with Town Administrator

- Jessica reported that she met with Tony Barletta to introduce him to the Stream Team’s past activities, projects and concerns. She has shared with him the water quality data from recent years of testing in the Kettle Cove salt marsh. We are trying to determine the source of the long-term bacterial contamination in that area.

Committee Updates

- Deb reported that the completed Harbor Master Plan’s draft is available for view on the Town website, and comments are still being accepted. The final version should be ready for adoption soon.
- Patti reported that the Open Space and Rec Committee is partnering with Cape Ann Trails Association to maintain trails in our area. There is interesting in creating a new access to Powder House Hill and parking spaces off Pine Street.

Salem Sound Coastwatch Updates

- The winter lecture series “Underwater in Salem Sound” is opening with a lecture on Eelgrass Restoration, on January 21 at 7 pm. This series will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Location and registration for virtual attendance is at salemssound.org.

• There will be a “penguin plunge” on January 24.
The minutes of November 17, 2025 were approved.

The next meeting will be on February 9, 2026 at 7 pm.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill