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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Please run until June 27

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CLEANING UP POLLUTED RUNOFF IN FARLEY BROOK: A PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us on Wednesday, June 27 from 7-8:30 pm at Ipswich Town Hall for a public meeting to learn about plans to clean up polluted runoff in Farley Brook.

Farley Brook is the largest single source of the pollutants, including bacteria and sediment, responsible for shellfish bed closures in the Ipswich River estuary. When it rains in downtown Ipswich, stormwater runoff flows across roofs, roads, and parking lots, picking up pollutants like oils and greases from cars, lawn fertilizers, and pet waste. This polluted runoff then flows into storm drains and into Farley Brook before entering the Ipswich River.

The Town of Ipswich is now addressing this pollution hotspot in collaboration with the Ipswich River Watershed Association and the Eight Towns and the Bay Committee. The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management awarded $25,000 for a project to assess and monitor stormwater pollution in Farley Brook and develop preliminary designs for best management practices (BMPs) to remediate the pollution.

SEA Consultants recently completed a water quality study, field survey, and report on Farley Brook. At this meeting, SEA will present the results of the project and the preliminary designs for BMPs to clean up polluted runoff in Farley Brook.

For more information, please contact Bob Gravino of the Ipswich Department of Public Works at 978-356-6612 or Emily Levin of the Ipswich River Watershed Association at 978-887-2313.

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