

Town of Ayer
Dam and Pond Management Committee
Meeting Minutes dated: April 9, 2012

Call to order: Meeting of the Dam and Pond Management Committee was held in Town Hall, Ayer, Ma. on April 9, 2012. Meeting convened at approximately 7:20 pm.

Members in Attendance: Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi (member)
Don Rzasa (Chairman)
Marina Giovannini (Member)
Laurie Nehring (Alternate Member)

Members Absent: Dan Nason, (DPW Superintendent)
Warren Ball (Conservation Commission designated Member)
Robert Pontbriand (Town Administrator)
Michele Riggs (Member)

Approva of Minutes:

Motion made and seconded to approve Minutes of March 26, 2012 meeting.

Guest Speaker:

Patrick Hughes – former Conservation Commission member – Informational Speaker

Discussion Points:

Ponds: Grove Pond – extensive pollution, should not be disturbed.
Plough Shop Pond – substantial pollution
Pine Meadow – significant lily pads, fragmities (sp)
Sandy Pond – shallows were treated in 2011
Long Pond – no significant problems with invasive vegetation
Flanagan’s Pond – invasive weed treatment overdue and scheduled for 2012

Drawdowns: Not particularly effective in weed treatment of Flanagan’s Pond due to the depth and topography.

Dams: Note given that 2001 dam guidelines were set in place after boards were removed and not replaced at Balch Dam, causing an extreme loss of water volume.

Dams:

Upper Long Pond – in good condition
Lower Long Pond – in good condition
Pine Meadow Pond Dam – in good condition
Balch Pond Dam – in very poor condition. Money was set aside (about \$144,000) to repair the dam. About \$60,00 was spent on Long Pond Dam. Question as to where rest of allocated funds are.

Barnam Road Bridge – large beaver dam (behind Wendy's)

Shaker Pond Dam – not a town-owned dam

Dike at Cain's – some trees and vegetation were removed to keep dike safe

Plough Shop Dam – needs work.

Laurie Nehring contributed that she spoke to Calvin Moore regarding his dam. He feels since his dam withstood the flooding 2 years ago, that he is 'off the hook' on any repairs required by the State.

Flanagan's Pond

In 2007 Flanagan's was treated with pellets – treatment was ineffective. No follow up occurred (by ConCom and town) to make sure that treatment was effective.

Order of conditions is in place for Flanagan's Pond treatment in 2012. There are UDAG funds and CPC funds. These should stay in place for later use.

Patrick Hughes suggests that one treatment company review the work of the other. In the case of Flanagan's Pond, Lycott is scheduled to treat the pond and ACT should review the effectiveness.

2005 Pond Study: Patrick feels that the weed and water conditions put forth in this study delineate problems and issues that are still the same in 2012. This study can be used to make a plan going forward. We should have a plan in place instead of letting conditions deteriorate, making large treatments necessary to maintain the health of the pond. Patrick believes the cost of the 2005 study was about \$6500.00.

Discussion of purple loosestrife and a program by presented NRWA that introduces a beetle population into the ponds that eat purple loosestrife.

End of speaker discussion.

Old Business

Don presented a mission statement for the Dam and Pond Management Committee.

"The Ayer Board of Selectmen's general charge of the Committee is for the committee to create an inventory of the Town's dams and ponds; assess their conditions and maintenance needs; and compile a Dam and Pond Management Plan for the Town to address these needs and issues."

Dam information was reviewed by Marina and Michele. Michele was not in attendance at this meeting, so we will review those findings at our next scheduled meeting.

COLAP: Marina has been unsuccessful in getting a response from COLAP. She will follow up again. Laurie will try to gather information on other organizations that would prove useful to our committee in becoming more educated in how to maintain our ponds and dams.

Spring Treatments: Marina spoke to Becky DaSilva-Condi. She will follow up with Lycott to get more information. At this point ConCom does not have a schedule of treatments from them.

In the meantime, Don spoke to Rob Wheaton and found that Flanagan's Pond is schedule to be treated on June 5th. Don reiterated that water is dropping in the pond and it appears that it will be low enough to treat. Chemicals to be used: Reward and Sonar. Since our growth season is early, the June date will need to be reviewed. We have green growth on the pond already.

New Business:

Patrick Hughes feels that 2005 study of the ponds can be a jumping off point for the future.

Inform Robert Pontbriand that we need representation from the Conservation Commission on our Committee (since it appears that Warren Ball is no longer an active member of ConCom or of our committee).

Bill Stuffers – Laurie has done some research on available brochures that can be inserted into various town mailings that have information on water conservation. AWWA is a country-wide organization that has education resources available for a fee. The MWRA also has water conservation information for cities and towns.

Marina had some information on educational programs from the NRWA.

Action Items:

Marina will continue to reach out to COLAP

Laurie will continue to gather educational materials for town distribution

Marina and Michele need to present on dam information that they have gathered

Committee needs to make a plan for further treatment and maintenance of the ponds.

Committee need to present our plan for the ponds and the dams to the BOS.

Committee needs members from the Conservation Commission and the DPW to fill seats.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Approval:

Marina Giovannini (Clerk)

Date of approval: _____