

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: August 22, 2007

Members Nick Browse
Present: Bill Johnson
Bruce Leicher
Ron Ricci
Jeff Ritter

Others Bob Blanck
Present: Jill Lashua
Barry Jordan
Richard Bryer, reporter for the *Harvard Hillside*

A quorum being present, Mr. Leicher called the meeting to order at 7:35PM.

Secretary's Report - Mr. Browse

1. Minutes of the meeting of July 25, 2007 were reviewed and approved.
2. It was noted that meeting minutes are available on the town website only for the past year or so. Mr. Leicher will scan paper copies of earlier minutes and forward them to Valeska Ross. It was agreed that a couple of year's worth of minutes should be available.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson

1. Final retainage has been received from the state for the pump project. Funds on hand include \$18,500 in our annual committee budget, \$14,563 in the pump electrical account, \$16,768 in the CPA account, \$24,278 in the pump project reimbursables account, and around \$1982 in two gift accounts.
2. A single bid has been received from ENSR for the pond survey required at the conclusion of the pump project. This work is expected to start in early September and be completed by the end of the month. The work will be paid with CPA funds, with additional monies drawn from the operating account if needed.

3. Mr. Johnson and Rich Nota have discussed payment of approximately \$1,800 in repair bills for the weed harvester. The harvester has traditionally been the responsibility of the DPW, but in recent years has been operated by volunteers. It was moved and approved that the Pond Committee pay these charges, with the understanding that there would be flexibility if the Committee budget is exhausted at the end of the year. Rick Dickson was thanked for his tireless work with the harvester and with weed control in general.

Pump Project - Mr. Ricci

1. The pump has been tested recently and is operating. Mr. Ricci reported noted a recent failure in the pump control electronics, repaired at a cost of \$212.
2. The depth sensor remains inoperative. An open circuit has been identified in the sensor and associated cabling; repairs should be made before the drawdown starts. It was agreed, however, that a visual gauge of pond depth should be also available.
3. The radio link for alarm monitoring is incomplete; we have been unable to find a bucket truck to borrow. It was agreed that the Committee would hire a contractor to complete the necessary work. The depth sensor and radio link are the last remaining pieces of pump construction.

Annual Drawdown

1. We are scheduled for 9:30 at the upcoming Conservation Commission meeting on September 6. At this time we will request permission for the annual drawdown.
2. Two residents of Clinton Shores were present, and spoke of their observations of the pond and surrounding wetlands. They noted a significant reduction in milfoil growth this summer (consistent with what we have seen) but also fewer amphibians (at conflict with our observations). Discussion ensued about the impact of pond drawdown and how this can be measured.

Town Center Runoff Collection Project

1. Bob O'Shea has agreed to manage the runoff collection project. Mr. Johnson has outlined a series of tasks where Committee members can help. It was agreed that the immediate task is to identify existing drainage systems in the town center, and to become generally familiar with where retention ponds might be located. With this background, we will invite Larry Boutiette from NRCS to come at the end of September.

Other Business

1. Mr. Ricci was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

2. Bob Blanck is new to town and has expressed interest in joining the Committee. He brings a background in biology and water filtration and an interest in the Committee's work. Committee membership is by appointment by the selectmen; Mr. Leicher suggested that Mr. Blanck send a note to Tim Bragan (Town Manager) stating his interest. Mr. Leicher will follow up with Mr. Bragan directly and express the Committee's support for Mr. Blanck.
3. Mr. Ritter will contact Tom Cotton about the possibility of renovating the beach kiosk. Mr. Leicher noted that he has the text and also the map in electronic form.
4. It was noted that boaters (especially water skiers) are lax in observing the regulations regarding the direction of boat traffic. Mr. Leicher will discuss with the Park & Recreation Committee.
5. The scheduled date for next month's meeting conflicts with other events in town for several Committee members. It was agreed that next month's meeting would be rescheduled to Wednesday, September 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.



Nicholas Browse

August 23, 2007