

# Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

## MEETING NOTES

Date: July 23, 2008

Members Chris Ashley Bill Johnson  
Present: Bob Blanck Bruce Leicher  
Nick Browse Jeff Ritter

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A quorum being present, the meeting was called order at 7:33AM.

### Secretary's Report - Mr. Browse

1. Minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2008 were reviewed and approved.
2. The meeting scheduled for June was not held.

### Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson

1. Mr. Johnson reported the following fund balances:
  - \$ 33,500.00 Annual committee budget account (initial balance \$33,500)
  - \$ 11,159.48 Pump project reimbursables account
  - \$ 926.66 Gift account
  - \$ 478.37 Gift account
2. We did not spend down the pump electrical account last year, and its balance of \$8337.00 was returned to the Town.
3. We are facing possible unexpected costs for repairs to the pump, and if the grant for the stormwater treatment project is approved, we will incur engineering costs that we may not be able to cover out of our available funds. We expect, however, that we will be able to negotiate with the engineers to pay them out of the initial grant reimbursements.

### Town Center Storm Water Treatment Project - Mr. Johnson

1. Mr. Johnson reported that no word has been received from the State on the grant proposal (last time around we received notification in early August). Final approval from the EPA would come in October, and negotiations would conclude with a contract signed in March 2009.

### Other Business

1. Mr. Johnson has received a request from the CPC for extensive documentation in spreadsheet form on expenditures funded by their grants toward the pump project. He has spoken to Steve Rowse, and they have agreed that summary information will be sufficient.
2. Mr. Ashley reported on his conversations with Ron Ricci regarding the status of the pump. A loaner drive controller was obtained and installed to no benefit; the failure appears to be within the variable frequency drive itself. The drive has been removed, and initial inspection shows what appear to be failed capacitors. The manufacturer acknowledges other reports of similar failures from other users. Hopefully replacement capacitors will fix the problem at low cost. Replacement of the entire drive might cost as much as \$10K-12K.

Mr. Ritter asked if a maintenance fund should be developed to deal with such unanticipated expenses. We felt that the any reasonable expenses could be met from our operating budget; catastrophic failures that were beyond this could be met in collaboration with the Town.

3. The DPW has completed repairs to the weed harvester, which is now back in operation.
4. The final weed pull is scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Blanck and Judy Warner will be unavailable to organize it; Mr. Leicher agreed to step in.
5. We agreed in the spring to forego a pumped drawdown this coming winter, but at the time did not address whether to conduct a gravity drawdown or no drawdown at all. After discussion, we agreed that a gravity drawdown would be beneficial, for the following reasons:
  - a. We can continue to build experience with muck removal.
  - b. Even a limited drawdown has benefits in milfoil control and in washing sediment away from the shoreline
  - c. We see no evidence of developing drawdown-resistant plants, and no reductions in the fish and frog counts.

Mr. Leicher will contact the Conservation Commission, and ask for time on their meeting agenda in late August.

6. Mr. Leicher has spoken with Tom Gormley, who has expressed interest in the pond, and has invited him to the next meeting.
7. We recognize that while the Pond Committee works efficiently with a small number of committee members, there are others (residents and non-residents) who have an interest in maintaining the pond, and that it would be good to capture this energy. Do we want to organize a "Friends of the Pond"? Further discussion was deferred for a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.



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Nicholas Browse

July 24, 2008