

# Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

## MEETING NOTES

Date: October 27, 2009

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Bob Blanck Tom Gormley, Jeff Ritter

Others Present: Jim Lee, Parks & Rec; Tim Bragan, Town Manager; Don Busiek and Tom Horrall, residents; first last, Reporter for The Press

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

### Secretary's Report - Mr. Gormley

1. Minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson (after the meeting was closed, Mr. Johnson provided us the following update):

1. Mr. Johnson reported that our fund balances are unchanged from the prior month:

|       |                              |              |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 01490 | Annual budget of \$33,500    | \$ 31,725.94 |
| 01489 | CPC grant of \$119,104       | \$110,017.12 |
| 27023 | State reimbursement fund     | \$ 42,505.16 |
| 26612 | Bare Hill Pond gift fund     | \$ 926.66    |
| 26622 | Bare Hill Sun Hill gift fund | \$ 478.37    |

### Waterfowl hunting on Bare Hill Pond - Mr. Leicher

1. Mr. Leicher reviewed the request received by Tim Bragan from Robert Kilgus, asking the Board of Selectmen to consider permitting hunting on the pond. Mr. Bragan had asked Mr. Leicher via email to have the Pond Committee give its input on the question. Mr. Leicher asked for opinions from Mr. Lee and committee members.
2. Mr. Lee, representing only himself, not Parks & Rec since he had not yet had the opportunity to discuss it with his committee, said he is against hunting on the pond.
3. All Pond committee members present are against hunting on the pond. Issues raised by committee members include the cost and complexities of having to police the activity; safety concerns with the high density of residents living on or near the pond; ecological issues of lead or steel shot in the pond;
4. Mr. Leicher informed us of existing laws and bylaws related to hunting. There is a 500' minimum distance required to the nearest residence/dwelling. There is already a town bylaw prohibiting hunting on the pond, except with permission of the Board of Selectman.
5. We agreed that Mr. Ritter will follow up with Mr. Bragan on our unanimous view against hunting on the pond for the above reasons.

### Weed Increase in South Bay

1. Residents and pond abutters Don Busiek (previous Pond Committee member in 1989) and Tom Horrall attended to discuss an increase in milfoil and fanwort weeds in the South Bay where they live. They're split on whether the drawdowns are working to reduce the weeds. They asked whether we could use the harvester to reduce these weeds in 2010.
2. Mr. Leicher told them the harvester's useful remaining life is limited such that we are only using it for water chestnuts in the pond. In addition, whereas operation of the harvester is no longer budgeted by the town (DPW) and only run by volunteer Rick Dickson, additional use of the harvester for milfoil / fanwort reduction isn't feasible at this time. DPW will handle simple repairs, but recently the harvester has come down with serious engine trouble, which will further limit its availability and might require additional town funds to replace.
3. Also discussed was the opinion, backed up by research, that harvesting milfoil and fanwort tends to spread the weeds further in a water body as cut pieces fall to the bottom and take root. Don did not recall this happening during his time on the Pond committee.
4. Mr. Leicher also mentioned that the drawdowns do appear to be effective; however, there has been a resurgence of milfoil and fanwort in 2009 due to our minimal drawdown of only 3 feet in 2008. We are going back to a deep drawdown this year, which should help keep weed growth in check next year.
5. Another option mentioned by Mr. Leicher and Mr. Ritter, as we heard about at the COLAP meeting last March, is suctioning equipment that has been used in other water bodies to remove milfoil and prevent its spreading. Tim Bragan knows someone in New Hampshire who built a suction device for \$10,000 and used it there. Mr. Leicher suggested that Don and Tom, if they're willing, do some research on such options and come back to inform the pond committee of their findings at a later time.

### Drawdown Status

1. Mr. Leicher reported that we are at exactly 4 feet at this time, as planned, and we will continue and be at 5 feet by next weekend.
2. The crew team has finished its season, and was satisfied with their use of the pond during the drawdown, limited to the agreed 4 feet by the end of October. They have however requested that we consider starting next year's drawdown a week later to facilitate practices late in the season.
3. Mr. Ritter raised the issue of impact or deep drawdowns, including potentially faster and shorter timeframe, on the downstream wetlands. Mr. Blanck said there is some impact, though not determined. Mr. Leicher sees more snakes in the pond and wetlands. Paul Willard or the Conservation Commission told Mr. Leicher he thinks it improves the functioning of the wetlands. DEP's advice allows drawdowns thru December, but Harvard's Conservation Commission has limited us to November.
4. Mr. Ritter estimated our electricity cost for the pump at \$4,200 per month.

### Other Business

1. Mr. Leicher is organizing our annual Fall mussel check on the shoreline of his property, on Sunday November 1st.
2. Jim Lee asked for our latest plans and schedule for stormwater treatment construction next spring, so that he can plan for impacts on Parks and Rec. Mr. Browse will

coordinate with Mr. Lee and provide him our latest plans. Pond dredging near the beach is on schedule to take this place in December this year. Mr. Gormley asked that Parks & Rec coordinate communications with the town about the schedule with the Pond Committee.

3. Mr. Leicher reported that the town is preparing an update to the town's web site sometime during November, and asked Mr. Gormley to complete the FAQ document for the stormwater treatment project for inclusion in the new Pond Committee pages.
4. Mr. Gormley reported that Wendy Gendron has not yet completed any further water quality testing. She proposed fitting it in this Fall still, or waiting til next spring. Mr. Leicher and Mr. Blanck expressed concern about the impact of the pond level on the tests. We agreed to request Ms. Gendron postpone any further testing until next spring prior to the first BMP construction. Mr. Gormley will follow up with Ms. Gendron.
5. Mr. Leicher raised a question about outreach activities planned to promote and educate town residents about pond committee work. He proposed holding an event at the Library in the spring, late February or March, and has materials in PowerPoint format to contribute to this event. Mr. Gormley will coordinate content with Mr. Leicher and contact the Library about scheduling a date.
6. We also anticipate writing an article about the upcoming dredging activity as part of the stormwater treatment project. Mr. Gormley suggested taking video of the event and using it in outreach events next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

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Tom Gormley, October 27, 2009