

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

MEETING NOTES

Date: November 24, 2009

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

Others Present: Rich Nota, DPW
Tom Cotton, Jim Ware, and Ted van Dusen, of the Rowing Assoc.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Mr. Leicher.

Rowing Association

Members of the Bare Hill Pond Rowing Association attended to present their experience and and future needs related to our drawdowns.

1. As far as the leaking dam goes, it's fixed now by DPW. Mr. Nota reported that the culverts have also been cleaned by DPW, so prior problems are resolved for now. We agree with Dan Justicz on the need to resolve this, but not on his estimates of the volume of water leaking through the dam, and the resulting pump effectiveness and electricity cost. The pond committee's experts' (Chris Ashley and Bob Blanck) estimates were much lower.
2. Holding the drawdown to four feet until after the Head of the Charles, as requested by Rowing, was helpful and appreciated by Rowing, but they would like the Pond Committee to consider holding it at two feet in future years, or as low as possible if two feet isn't feasible.
3. We will consider this request and also Dan's request to postpone the start of the drawdowns by three weeks, and come back for more discussion with the Rowing Association by next summer before the drawdown. Mr. Leicher said he is open to studying this, but believes it will be more like one week, and 3.5 or three feet.
4. Our decision on the above will need to consider the higher electricity cost of running the pump faster (in order to complete the drawdown in a shorter time), the possibility of greater rainfall than we had this year, and the potential for an early freeze in November.
5. Mr. Cotton suggested that drawdowns could create a safety issue, if boaters or kayakers during the drawdown get stranded in the pond and the Fire Department had trouble navigating the mud to get to them. Mr. Nota said there are solutions for that.

Secretary's Report - Mr. Gormley

1. Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report - None. Mr. Johnson was absent.

Excavation at the Town Beach - Mr. Leicher and Mr. Nota

1. The Committee asked Mr. Nota to report on the latest timing for starting the excavation of the town beach area, as part of our stormwater treatment project. Mr. Nota said the plans have changed and the timing is delayed due to the finding of standing water left in the beach area and a stream from the north which is feeding it.
2. The new plan is to focus the excavation on the boat launch area rather than the beach, and to use hay bales temporarily to divert the stream to the main pond. The Conservation Commission has approved the hay bales and the use of pipes in the future to divert the stream.
3. Pond muck removed by dredging will need to sit and dry out in the parking lot behind the beach house, through the winter.

Education and Outreach – Mr. Gormley

1. Mr. Gormley handed out a completed draft of the FAQ for the Stormwater Treatment project, and asked members to read it and provide comments for the next update, which will be discussed at the next monthly meeting.
2. Mr. Gormley received several available Saturday dates in the spring from Library staff, for use of Volunteer's Hall for our planned outreach event. Committee members were concerned that Saturdays might be too busy for residents, and suggested that a weeknight would be better suited to drawing a good crowd. The committee agreed on Thursday night as the best option. Mr. Gormley will inquire with Library staff about which days/nights seem to have the best attendance record. He'll also request open Thursday nights, and report back.

Next Meeting – Mr. Leicher

1. Mr. Leicher said the next meeting will be December 22, and asked members whether they would be available. Most said they would be.

Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Tom Gormley, November 24, 2009