

# Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

## MEETING NOTES

Date: December 22, 2009

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Tom Gormley, Jeff Ritter, Bill Johnson, Liz Swain

Others Present:

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 November 24, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

### Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson sent the following update on our account balances to the committee via email on the day after our meeting, December, 23, 2009:

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500	Paid most of excavation costs	\$ 7,989.92
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104	Remainder of excavation costs	\$ 95,058.12
27023	State reimbursement fund	\$35k reimbursement last 6 months	\$ 45,585.41
26612	Bare Hill Pond gift fund	Unchanged	\$ 926.66
26622	Bare Hill Sun Hill gift fund	Unchanged	\$ 478.37
	<b>Total</b>	Sufficient to begin construction	\$150,038.48

- Roughly \$34k spent on excavation so far will be reimbursed by the State.
- Paid a \$6,500 electric bill.
- Pond Committee will fund the boat ramp construction "for now", with expected sharing of to cost (estimate \$3-4k) with Parks & Rec and DPW to be negotiated.
- Application submitted for use of town's Cash Reserve funds (up to \$12k) for harvester engine repair this winter

### Stormwater Treatment Project – Mr. Johnson

1. We are slightly behind schedule on the bidding process, but this will not affect our spring construction timing. Design of BMP-8 in particular has required further consideration given our new plans for installing a boat ramp in that area.

### Boat Ramp - Mr. Johnson

1. Jim Lee (Parks & Rec) is leading the way on purchasing and logistics for the ramp.
2. Cons Comm wants a formal RDA even though it believes there will be no real impact from the ramp construction. We meet next with Cons Comm on Jan. 7, 2010 to discuss

the project.

3. We are on schedule for mailing to abutters and notice in town newspapers.
4. The design for the ramp will be a grade of 6 to 1 on a 30' run, based on early research of similar ponds' boat ramps. Further research has suggested a less steep grade of 8 to 1 might be better, but Rich Nota of DPW has said it's too late to change it now.

#### Drawdowns – Mr. Leicher and others

1. Mr. Leicher said based on data we have so far, delaying the start of next year's gravity drawdown by one week looks feasible. This is in response to the Rowing Association's request for further delays to assist the Rowing team's practices.
2. We plan to continue with another deep drawdown in 2010, of 6 feet or 6.5 feet which Mr. Ritter said would be sufficient to eliminate the small ponding in the beach area which prevented excavation of that area this year.
3. We continue to evaluate the tradeoff of further delays vs. higher electricity costs caused by faster running of the pump, and will come back to that by this summer with Rich Nota, after presenting our analysis in public venues such as our spring outreach event or town meeting.
4. Cons Comm received many calls from residents about the drawdown depth this Fall, which was apparently perceived as greater than usual. We believe the main issue we need to address is improving public awareness of our drawdown plans so that residents are not surprised. We will address this next year. One method would be using a depth marker in a more prime location such as the beach to show the drawdown depth.

#### Education and Outreach – Mr. Gormley

1. Mr. Gormley said he'd received input from Nick Browse on the FAQ distributed at the prior month's meeting. Mr. Leicher said he would give input before the next meeting and asked that others do the same.
2. Mr. Gormley said the Library has several Thursday evenings open in late February and early March for our Spring Outreach event. We agreed on March 4<sup>th</sup> as the best. Mr. Gormley will secure 7-9pm on that date for Volunteer's Hall with library staff.
3. We discussed critical questions for the outreach event – our goals, audience, content, and logistics. Foremost is generating understanding and support for the Stormwater project. Our secondary goal is building understanding and support for Pond Committee activities in general, including greater volunteer participation by residents.
4. For our audience, we want a cross-section including pond abutters, other residents, members of other town boards (especially Parks & Rec and the Rowing Association), students and teachers.
5. For content, Mr. Leicher will circulate a copy of his PPT presentation from last year's COLAP meeting as a starting point. We will also include video of the excavation this fall. We need photos showing various pond activities such as fishing, swimming, water skiing. We currently plan for a main presentation of roughly 30 minutes, plus Q&A. After that, we will host several tables in the hall, each covering different committee activities, such as stormwater treatment, drawdowns, weed pulls and harvesting, allowing attendees to roam from one to the next for discussion and Q&A. Further plans for this event will be discussed at our next two meetings.

#### Other

1. Mr. Leicher said he has spoken with a resident who expressed interest in joining our committee to fill the open slot vacated by Chris Ashley last year.

2. Mr. Leicher reported that Tom Cotton of the Rowing Association has approval from the Cons Comm to attempt breaking up boulders in the pond which are in the path of rowers and can damage their boats.
3. Mr. Johnson said volunteer efforts to insulate the pump house will commence in January, 2010.
4. Mr. Leicher reported that next year's COLAP meeting is coming soon in January.
5. Mr. Leicher discussed mandatory training required for all town board members, on the topic of open meeting laws. Mr. Leicher provided a handout on this, and said we all need to complete the training and test online.

Next Meeting – Mr. Leicher

1. Mr. Leicher said the next meeting will be January 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

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Tom Gormley, December 22, 2009