

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: July 28, 2009

Members Bob Blanck Bruce Leicher, Chair

Present: Nick Browse Jeff Ritter

Tom Gormley Liz Swain

Others Pat Hart, Bare Hill Rowing Association

Present: Pat Scott, Bare Hill Rowing Association

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

Secretary's Report - Mr. Browse

1. Minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

Annual Pond Drawdown

1. Mr. Leicher summarized a draft of his letter to the Conservation Commission requesting approval for the annual pumped drawdown. This led to discussions about the timing of the drawdown and its effect upon the rowing team. Over the past three years:
 - a. Fall 2006, pumped to final depth as quickly as possible, which severely limited the rowing club's ability to use the pond in late October.
 - b. Fall 2007, pumped to 4' and held at that depth until October 21 (Head of the Charles). No reported problems.
 - c. Fall 2008, gravity drawdown to approximately 3'-6". One boat damaged from a rock, but the team involved was unfamiliar with the pond.
2. The rowing club uses the pond heavily in the fall. Drawdowns affect them by reduced water depth (and increased risk of rocks) and by shrinking the pond area (compromising training for long distance). We feel we have control over timing and depth, but have little ability to prevent the reduction in pond area. Leaving pond area unchanged would in effect prohibit any drawdown.
3. The rowing club's schedule runs through the Head of the Charles race (third weekend of October), Head of the Fish race (fourth weekend), and States

(following weekend). They practice through Friday of the last event, which this year is Friday 10/30.

4. The rowing club feels that with care, they can manage with the pond at the 4' drawdown depth. The committee agreed that we will not pump beyond this level until after Friday 10/30.
5. We are limited by our Order of Conditions to cease pumping November 15. Holding at 4' through 10/30, and with an expected rate of 1" per day thereafter, achieving a 6' depth by 11/15 will not be possible. We agreed to seek permission from the Conservation Commission to continue pumping until November 24, which, with favorable conditions, will enable us to reach the 6' depth.

Town Center Storm Water Treatment Project - Mr. Browse

1. Final (though not stamped) plans are with Rich Nota, who is reviewing them for contract and other language. We hope to bid the work shortly and do one or more of the sites this fall, to take advantage of market conditions.
2. With the possibility of starting work in the fall, Mr. Gormley agreed to prepare an FAQ sheet to inform the public. Mr. Browse agreed to work with Mr. Johnson in notifying the press.

Pump

1. The pump is not operating. Investigation by Mr. Browse and Ron Ricci showed numerous blown fuses and a possible defective control module. Mr. Ricci will identify needed repairs.
2. We have priced a pond depth sensor with attached 800' cable, and found its cost prohibitive. We have decided to defer its purchase.
3. Given that pump maintenance is requiring significant effort (volunteered by Mr. Ricci) and that he is already contributing substantial time as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the question was raised about whether this is the best approach to pump maintenance. Mr. Browse & Mr. Ricci to discuss.

Other Business

1. Mr. Gormley and Mr. Johnson have been in touch with ENSR about the fall pond monitoring, and will coordinate a schedule.
2. The most recent weed pull was lightly attended due to bad weather. One more is scheduled for August 8. Mr. Blanck will write to the local papers thanking everyone for their assistance. Rick Dickson reports that weed harvesting collected 14½ loads this year, compared with 60 loads last year.

3. Mr. Gormley is pursuing contacts in Littleton and Amesbury regarding the pond overlay zoning district.
4. Mr. Ritter and Ms. Swain report the hose at the pond is in place, connected to a backboard and faucet by the road. We now need only a short hose and sprayer and also the sign. Mr. Ritter will make copies of the beach/pond rules and ask the beach staff to distribute them to boaters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.



Nicholas Browse

July 29, 2009