

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: August 25, 2009

Members Nick Browse Bruce Leicher, Chair

Present: Tom Gormley Jeff Ritter

Bill Johnson

Others Barry Jordan

Present: Jill Lashua

Simon Jones

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

Secretary's Report - Mr. Browse

1. Minutes of the meeting of July 28, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson

1. Mr. Johnson reported the following fund balances:
 - \$ 32,799.57 Annual committee budget account (initial balance \$33,500)
 - \$110,021.12 CPA account (for stormwater management project; funded at \$179,000; initial balance last month was \$119,104)

Discussion with Pond Abutters

1. Mr. Jordan presented a series of photographs of weed growth in the Clinton Shores area, and Ms. Lashua reported on her observations as a swimmer. Weed growth (probably fanwort) begins at a depth of about 4', increasing in density to a depth of about 10', with reduced density at further depth. From these observations, and consistent with our observations from professional Pond monitoring, it appears that re-growth happens very quickly in areas exposed by the draw-down. Such re-growth is especially rapid at the west side of the Pond where weeds receive direct sunlight for much of the day.
2. Mr. Johnson suggested the following be undertaken by the committee:
 - a. We are assuming regular pumped drawdowns will produce drawdown-resistant weeds, and so are planning gravity drawdowns every third or fourth

year. But is this supported by research? Could we do pumped drawdowns every year?

- b. Are there any options for control of weeds at depths greater than 10-12' (beyond the depth of pumping)? Possibly check with ENSR?

Conservation Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

1. We have received notice of a hearing with the Conservation Commission for work at Willard Shores. Though the hearing date has passed, Mr. Leicher will inform the commission that we object to the proposed work (establishment of a lawn), and would instead like to see restoration of the original plantings.
2. We have received notice of a hearing with the Conservation Commission for work by John Boynton at 12 Pinnacle Road. The nature of the work is uncertain; Mr. Gormley will follow up.
3. We have received notice of a hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals for work by Paul & Mary Wood, conversion of a seasonal residence to year round use. No comments.

Town Center Storm Water Treatment Project - Mr. Johnson & Mr. Browse

1. Contrary to earlier thinking, we will not begin construction work this fall, due to heavy use of the playing fields where the construction sites are located. Mr. Browse will coordinate with Rich Nota (DPW) for his comments to drawings, and with Jim Lee (Park & Rec) for a schedule of work to begin in the spring of 2010.
2. Mr. Gormley presented a draft of an FAQ sheet for the project. This was approved with slight modifications. Public distribution of the document will wait until agreement on a schedule of the work is reached with Park & Rec. Mr. Browse will provide portions of the Horsley Witten report for background information on Best Management Practices.

Other Business

1. Mr. Leicher reported that he has filed a number of outstanding Orders of Conditions (beach project, 2005 & 2008) and Certificates of Compliance (2002 & 2005).
2. Ron Ricci reports that the pump is now operating.
3. Mr. Gormley has coordinated with Wendy Gendron of ENSR to train committee members in water sampling, with training to be conducted this coming Saturday morning. We need to consider sampling points that reflect the stormwater management project; Mr. Browse and Mr. Johnson will recommend suitable sampling points for coordination with Ms. Gendron. It was agreed to use

Berkshire Environmental for laboratory work due to their status as a Women-Owned Business.

4. Mr. Johnson noted his recent informal discussions with Ron Ricci (Chair, Board of Selectmen) concerning the status of the Pond Committee. The committee currently operates in an advisory capacity only; would it be helpful for us to formally represent the Town on behalf of the Pond? In particular, this would give us legal standing in disputes with Pond abutters, and would empower us to evaluate competing interests and make decisions regarding drawdowns. It was agreed that we should seek this authority. Mr. Johnson will coordinate with Tim Bragan on the process to achieve this; Mr. Leicher will draft a letter to the Selectmen.
5. With the enthusiastic endorsement of all present, Mr. Jones will contact Ron Ricci and request appointment to the Pond Committee.
6. Mr. Leicher will invite Bob O'Shea to the September meeting. As Harbormaster, Mr. O'Shea has an interest in committee activities, and this will provide an opportunity for discussing how we might best work together.
7. Mr. Leicher noted the existence of a pipe beneath the dam at the pond, which, when the pond level is low, provides flow through the dam counter to the action of the pump. We agreed that the locations of the ends of this pipe should be identified so that the pipe could be sealed if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.



Nicholas Browse

August 25, 2009