

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

MEETING NOTES

Date: January 26, 2010

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Tom Gormley, Jeff Ritter, Robert Blanck,
Present: Nick Browse, 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's report is incorporated here by reference (Email Jan. 26):

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500		\$ 18,294.97
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 71,740.07
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 45,585.41
26612	Bare Hill Pond gift fund	Unchanged	\$ 926.66
26622	Bare Hill Sun Hill gift fund	Unchanged	\$ 478.37
	Total		\$137,025.48

- Park & Rec will split the cost of new boat ramp with Pond Committee.
- The CPC has denied our request for harvester repair funds. We will submit a request for \$9000 in town reserve funds for this repair. Bill provided us a draft today. Send him comments by tomorrow.
- Nick, Bruce, and Bill met with Lori Granville a couple of weeks ago to review our FY11 budget submission in the context of the overall 3-year stormwater project. She is supportive.

Education and Outreach – Mr. Gormley

1. Intro Letter – The letter, to be sent to new Pond abutters, was well received by the Committee. Mr. Gormley received comments from Mr. Browse and Mr. Leicher, and will edit the letter and re-send it to the committee within a week to 10 days.
2. Outreach event -- Is approved by Mary Wilson of the Library, for March 4th, 7-9pm, in Volunteer's Hall.
3. Mr. Leicher has spoken with the Press about the outreach event. They will publish our stormwater FAQ prior to the event, to drum up interest. Mr. Gormley has received additional input on the stormwater FAQ from Mr. Leicher, and will turn around an updated version to the committee within a week to 10 days for comments, so that it can be published in the Press / Post in February.

4. We discussed the agenda and timing for the outreach event. Mr. Gormley proposed starting at 7pm with an open house style, and then shift to our presentation by 7:15pm and finish that by 8pm, followed by more table talk. The group agreed to modify that slightly. For the event's formal announcement, the main presentation and Q&A will go from 7:30pm til 8:30pm, followed by open house / tables. Before 7:30pm, people can come in, roam tables casually, and ask questions, while we're setting up.
5. In addition to the Press announcement, we will personally invite several town boards, including ConsCom, Parks & Rec, Rowing. We will inform the Cable Committee so that they can video tape the event.
6. Mr. Leicher reviewed a draft of the presentation, which combines his presentation at COLAP last year with Bill Johnson's slides on the STP. We'd like to include video of the excavation this fall, but the quality may not be sufficient. We will each take a turn editing or adding to the slides over the next few weeks. Mr. Browse has the next turn.
7. Before and after the presentation, we will host several tables in the hall, each covering different committee activities, including stormwater treatment, drawdowns, weed pulls and harvesting, volunteer opportunities, and (possibly) monitoring. Each committee member will be asked to staff a table for discussion and Q&A with residents.
8. We will provide food and soft drinks for the event.

Stormwater Treatment Project – Mr. Browse

1. Getting to the bidding step has been slowed by the need for new drawings from Horsley Witten to address the location of canoe racks which are in the way of the swale in the current design. However, we expect that will be resolved in time to keep the bidding process on schedule for February.

Boat Ramp - Mr. Johnson

1. Cons Comm approved the RDA on Jan. 7. The ramp will be installed this week. Mr. Ritter will call the Press for photo opportunities.

Drawdowns – Mr. Leicher and others

1. Tom Cotton of the Rowing Association, along with Mr. Leicher, experimented with breaking up rocks that are in the way of boats during drawdowns, with sledge hammers. Mr. Leicher said the rocks are "schist" and can be broken easily. Mr. Cotton's report via email wasn't as optimistic, but he plans to organize a work party of rowers to break up those in the main path (not near the beach). They will also plan to use buoys to mark some of the rocks so that boats can go around them.
2. Mr. Leicher and Mr. Ritter reported ConsCom's request for solutions to measuring the height of our drawdowns in the Fall, to address the questions and concerns raised by residents last Fall. We discussed alternatives, including painting the pipe attached to the pump house at intervals of different heights from 3 to 6 feet. Residents would be able to see the drawdown progress / height by looking at the water level relative to the markings. Mr. Ritter will review this with DPW for their input.
3. We've been running the pump to keep the water level as constant as possible during recent heavy rains, so that a rising level doesn't disrupt the ice, making it unsafe.

Education and Outreach – Mr. Gormley

Other

1. We will change the day of our monthly meetings from Tuesday to Wednesday nights, same time and place, for the next three months (February, March, and April). This is to allow Bill Johnson to attend our meetings in this period, since he has a conflict with EDAT meetings on Tuesday nights. After that, we will revert to Tuesday nights.
2. Mr. Gormley reminded the committee of the watershed management meeting this coming weekend at Devens.
3. Mr. Gormley asked about the mandatory training required for all town board members, on the topic of open meeting laws. Mr. Browse said he'd taken it already.

Next Meeting – Mr. Leicher

1. Mr. Leicher said the next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Tom Gormley, January 26, 2009