

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: April 28, 2010

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

The meeting opened without a quorum being present, but was called to order at 8:05pm by Mr. Ritter, when Mr. Johnson arrived late due to his prior meeting with the BOS.

Soil Report from UConn

1. Mr. Leicher and the committee discussed the report from UConn analyzing the soil samples from the pond bottom material excavated from the boat launch area last December. The results were surprising in their low phosphorous level, but indicated a high % of organic matter making the material potentially marketable as a soil amendment.

Committee Vacancies and Transitions

1. Mr. Leicher reported there are several town residents who might be candidates for our two vacancies including the seat vacated by Mr. Johnson as he joins the BOS. Debra Pierce, chair of Bromfield's Science department, has indicated her interest and had planned to attend this meeting but had a conflict and will attend our next meeting. All expressed positive views of having Ms. Pierce on our committee, as a scientist, and as a member of the school staff with insights on general school matters, outreach, and connecting watershed management activities with the science curriculum.
2. This is Mr. Johnson's last meeting as a member of the Committee. We thanked Mr. Johnson for his tremendous efforts over many years and wished him well on the BOS.
3. Mr. Ritter has offered to take on Mr. Johnson's roles as Treasurer and project manager for the Stormwater Treatment Project. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Leicher will work on handing off the role to Mr. Ritter, who is giving up his role leading the frog counting effort (his replacement is to be determined).

4. Mr. Leicher offered to continue as chair of the Committee, after no one else volunteered, but he asked that we discuss it first privately without him at a future meeting.

Meeting with Bromfield's Science Department

1. Mr. Gormley and Mr. Ritter met on April 28 with Ms. Pierce and a significant portion of her department to explore ways to further link Bromfield's science curriculum with our watershed management activities. We identified two tracks for further discussion – immediate opportunities thru the end of the school year, and long-term opportunities into the next school year. The department is very interested and identified some good ideas as well as needs. One need is finding “mentors” in town who might participate with students in extra-curricular pond science activities, since most teachers are already too maxed out to add something new to their schedules. We thought this was a good idea and will pursue it and report back. Mr. Gormley will email Ms. Pierce with thanks and next steps.
2. Mr. Ritter suggested a committee/student project focused on pond level monitoring, considering rainfall, condensation, outflow to the dam, and stream inflows. Another suggestion was measuring pollution levels in the pond and identifying the most at-risk areas needing attention.

Water quality testing

1. Mr. Gormley reported that Wendy Gendron has completed a pre-construction “wet” test of water quality in several locations entering the pond, and has submitted those to the Berkshire lab. We expect results back next week.

Minutes approved

With Mr. Johnson's arrival, the meeting was officially called to order by Mr. Ritter, and we voted unanimously to approve the minutes from March 24, 2010.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Johnson

1. Mr. Johnson reported the following fund balances:

\$ 15,047.86	Annual committee budget account
60,496.32	CPC account
85,108.71	Stormwater management project reimbursable account
<u>238.55</u>	Gift account
\$160,891.44	Total
2. With these balances we have more than enough to start construction on time in June. Mr. Johnson said he has set expectations with town managers that we will encumber the remaining balance of this year's budget account for next year's Stormwater Treatment Project budget.

3. Mr. Ritter asked whether we can save on electricity costs by switching off the pump automatically. Mr. Johnson said we should instead have DPW just shut it off manually, and just run it one to two times over the summer.

Stormwater Management Project

1. Mr. Ritter said according to Rich Nota (DPW), we're on schedule to begin construction by mid-June.
2. Mr. Johnson reported we don't yet have a final contract for the 2nd portion of the DEP grant. There is concern about eliminating our planned work in BMP1 and how the funds for that will be re-used in our project (perhaps more excavation in another location). Mr. Browse and Mr. Leicher will speak with DEP on that topic to move things forward.
3. We do plan further excavation this coming winter in the beach area, but with a new plan of approach which we will review with the Conservation Commission well in advance this time, to avoid the communication issues we experienced recently related to the muck removal and other aspects of the project.

Other Business

1. Mr. Leicher asked the committee's views on the upcoming Town Meeting vote to approve an expenditure of \$30,000 for dam repairs. We did not take a position on the article, but expressed a need to prepare Rich Nota (DPW) for a discussion on the article including the views of the committee.
2. Mr. Johnson raised an issue about the new boat ramp being fully under water, rather than having the top portion out of the water for traction. This is Park & Rec's responsibility. Mr. Ritter suggested the top portion may be out of the water but covered by sand. Mr. Leicher will discuss it with Parks & Rec.
3. Mr. Gormley and Mr. Ritter raised the topic of dealing with the "mud bergs" which formed over the winter during the ice thaw and are floating in front of some pond residents' (Bill Laursen being on) properties. We did not resolve this and will discuss it at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Tom Gormley

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