

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

MEETING NOTES

Date: June 23, 2010, 7:30pm

Place: Hildreth House

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Tom Gormley, Jeff Ritter, Robert Blanck,
Present: Nick Browse, Mark Hardy, Liz Swain (student member)

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS)

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 May 26, 2010 were not available yet due to Mr. Gormley's move to a new home. Minutes will be made available for review/approval at or before our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ritter

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500		\$ 6,552.98
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 59,752.32
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 85,108.71
26612	Bare Hill Pond gift fund		\$ 238.55
26622	Bare Hill Sun Hill gift fund	Paid for boat ramp	\$ 0.00
	Total		\$161,652.56

Stormwater Treatment Project

1. Final, accepted bid for stormwater treatment project is \$262,483, from JJ Whelan & Sons, was the lowest bid. Fully spent, this will leave roughly \$253k remaining. Mr. Johnson suggests we invite Larry Boutier from DEP to recommend other work we could do with remaining grant funds.
2. Further beach bottom excavation will not be reimbursable by the grant, per DEP, but any funds or volunteer time we spend on it will count towards the town's match. We currently need roughly another \$100k of match for the project (at the \$262k bid).
3. It's time to collect volunteer hours and report to DEP for Q2. Mr. Gormley requested time details from each committee member by 7/1 so he can turn it around to Mr. Ritter by 7/5. Mr. Gormley will send Mr. Hardy a time sheet template.

Conservation Commission items

1. Cons Comm probably will not approve any further excavation beyond the beach, because they view it as invasive.
2. We discussed Paul Willard's desire for a town-wide strategic discussion of uses for the

pond (recreation, rowing, etc.), to drive clearer decision making. Mr. Leicher suggested we should put this off til later, while dealing sooner than later with issues with drawdowns, excavation, etc. We have to continue our drawdowns for the s.319 grant, so there's no choice there.

3. We do need a new NOI this summer for further beach excavation in the fall/winter. Rich Nota should draft. Cons Comm didn't like storing that much material (last year) so close to the pond, but we're not sure why. We'll ask Mr. Nota to attend our next meeting to discuss this.
4. When we meet with Cons Comm on these topics, we should do two things: Make excerpts from our GEIR and QAPP required reading (Cons Comm however thinks these are not rigorous enough for their needs), and invite Michelle Girard to join us.
5. Have we considered putting one of our committee permanently on the Cons Comm?

Drawdowns – Mr. Leicher, all

1. Mr. Leicher described his current thinking for the fall drawdown schedule, to accommodate Rowing:
 - a. Gravity draw from 9/30 to 10/15, to 3' depth.
 - b. Then pump until 10/25 (end of Rowing season) up to 4'.
 - c. Then continue pumping to 6.5' by 11/30/10.
2. Monitoring -- Mr. Leicher suggested we re-look at our monitoring effort related to effects of drawdowns on the pond (weeds, amphibians), and consider again the suggestions of Rich Orsen (consultant hired in 2002).
3. Pond bottom sediment. Mr. Johnson raised the need for further study of this, as we still don't really know how much phosphorous is in the sediment, and therefore the impact of drawdowns on the concentration of phosphorous in the pond bottom.

Other

1. Our water quality test results from April showed one sample much higher in phosphorous vs. all the others. Mr. Gormley will request a map of the location of all samples from Wendy Gendron, and ask for further (brief) explanation of these test results and all future tests.
2. EPA equipment grant is submitted, but we're not sure which specific equipment to request, among the menu of choices. Mr. Ritter and Mrs Pierce will contact Wendy Gendron for her input.
3. Outreach – Mr. Gormley suggested an outdoor event at the beach this summer, focusing on abutters and other town residents. Options would include a walk-thru of stormwater treatment sites and explanation of the project; table talks; and barbecue. Committee members liked the idea.
4. Boater education – Mr. Ritter reiterated the need for additional signage and effort to motivate compliance with boat washing. The hose for washing however, is damaged (DPW to repair). We're on our own, with little assistance from Parks & Rec.
5. Nashua River Partner designation. Mr. Johnson informed us about a state 3-year study of the Nashua, and the opportunity to participate for Harvard's portion. Participation can make us eligible for state funds, but would prohibit certain permitting work within one-quarter mile of the River. Town would have to approve this.
6. Student project – Mr. Gormley apprised the committee of a potential student project involving mapping out sections of the pond and assessing weeds, wildlife by section. Would require participation of either committee members or residents to help.

Next Meeting – Mr. Leicher

1. Mr. Leicher said the next meeting will be Wednesday, July 28.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00PM.

Tom Gormley