

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management

MEETING NOTES

Date: July 28, 2010, 7:30pm

Place: Hildreth House

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

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS), Rich Nota (DPW), Janet Waldron (Cons Comm)

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

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ritter

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500	Including remainder of FY 2010	\$ 44,853.04
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 57,655.82
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 85,108.71
	Total		\$187,617.57

1. Mr. Ritter reported paying Wendy Gendron for her water testing services. Mr. Ritter thought the fees seemed high, but the group felt it was in the normal range compared with past use of her services.

Stormwater Treatment Project

1. We have not yet received the results of water quality testing done in June by Ms. Gendron. Mr. Leicher asked Mr. Gormley to try to get the results in time for the meeting with Cons Comm the following week.
2. Recent rains in July overflowed some of the newly constructed treatment facilities, causing runoff into nearby wetlands. Our contractor removed some of the material, but Cons Comm was not satisfied and wanted more of it removed, so our contractor used 5-gallon buckets and shovels to remove more, and seems to have satisfied Cons Comm. We also brought Horsley Witten to see the damage, and they agreed to re-design some of the facilities to beef them for future rains. We also believe the contractor will not charge us additional fees for the beefing up.

Conservation Commission – Excavation Project

1. We will ask Cons Comm to read the GEIR before the Aug. 5 meeting, as preparation.
2. Cons Comm wants a plan for the fall excavation of the beach area, including contingencies. We discussed the motivation for the excavation project:
 - a. Reverse eutrophication, at least in the beach area.
 - b. Impact on the town – beach use. Benefit to Parks & Rec, including removal of the benthic barrier which is viewed as a safety hazard.
 - c. It's the most accessible area of the pond for us to study the impact of

- excavation on invasive weeds.
- d. Provide a portion of the match of DEP grant funds, to enable other stormwater projects with remaining funds on the grant.
3. We view 2009 as a learning year, as far as removal and storage of the sludge, and rocks. With that experience, we believe we can improve the results and side effects this year.
 4. Mr. Blanck will take the lead for the Pond Committee on this issue with Cons Comm. We will take the approach to first gain agreement with Cons Comm on whether this excavation is worthwhile, given the benefits and costs/risks. Then, we'll work with them to determine the best way to design and manage the project.
 5. Mr. Nota will seek professional guidance on this from an engineering firm. The Pond Committee voted Yes unanimously to provide up to \$5,000 for this guidance.

Drawdowns – Mr. Leicher, all

1. Mr. Leicher described his updated thinking for the fall drawdown schedule, to both meet our needs and try to accommodate Rowing:
 - a. Gravity draw from 9/20 to 10/22, to 3' depth.
 - b. Then start pumping until 10/29 (end of Rowing season) up to 3.5'.
 - c. Then continue pumping to 5', and stop to check for mussels.
 - d. Finishing pumping drawdown at 6.5' by 11/30/10 or the first hard freeze.
2. Monitoring – Rich Nota told us he is getting a quote on a new pond level gauge for installation and use in the fall drawdown. This will provide the official measurement. It will be installed offshore from the pump house, with markings at every foot.
3. Mr. Browse raised the issue of safety for boaters in the area, including whether they will be able to see the gauge from all angles.
4. Mr. Leicher said he's been using a secchi disk to monitor water clarity, and believes the disk shows an improvement of .5 feet over last year.
5. Milfoil is bad in some areas, including near Hastings' property at the entry of Thurstons Brook. Mr. Leicher suggested it may be due either to the lack of freezing in the brook area, or from additional phosphorous entering from the brook.

Secretary's Report - Mr. Gormley

Minutes of the meetings of May 26, 2010 and June 23rd were reviewed and approved.

Other

1. The August 7 weed pull event was cancelled based on the advice of Rick Dickson.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00PM.

Tom Gormley

Town of Harvard
Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

AGENDA

Corrected: Wednesday, July 28, 2010
7:30 P.M.

Hildreth House

- 1) Welcome New Member – (7:30 P.M.)
- 2) Secretary Report – Review and Approval of Minutes of June and May Meetings - (7:35 P.M.)
- 3) Treasurer’s Report – Review Budget and Expenses – (7:40 P.M.)
- 4) Draw Down Planning – (7:50 P.M.)
 - a. Discuss Annual Review with Conservation Commission Planned for August 5
 - b. Discuss Recent Monitoring Activities
 - c. Discuss Pond Level Measurement
- 5) Excavation Project Planning (Rich Nota invited) (8:10 P.M.)
 - a. Discuss with Rich Nota his recommendations and plans to facilitate the planning and preparation of a Notice of Intent to excavate peat at the Town Beach
- 6) Stormwater Treatment Project (8:45 P.M.)
 - a. Discuss Activities to date and any action items requiring Committee Attention

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 25, 7:30 P.M., Hildreth House