

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: October 27, 2010, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

Members Present: Jeff Ritter, Robert Blanck, Nick Browse, Liz Swain (student member),
Tom Gormley

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS), Sam Elkind (student)

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

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

Minutes from our September meeting were reviewed and approved by motion, unanimously, with the exception of one change on page two.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ritter

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500	Paid Nat. Grid, Horsley Witten	\$ 4,075.75
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 0.00
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 59,389.83
	Gift account		\$ 238.00
	Total		\$ 63,703.58

1. We have submitted to the state for reimbursement of bills paid to JJ Phelan and expect to receive \$169,737.26.
2. Budget '11 is due soon. We plan to submit a level budget from 2010. If required to reduce (perhaps 5%), we will comply as we have funds available for our planned projects.
3. Mr. Leicher has been very busy with work but will return in January and will continue as Chair unless the Committee wishes otherwise. No such wishes were expressed.
4. Mr. Ritter informed us that he may need to step down as Treasurer in April, 2011, so we should be considering who might take on that position.
5. Our bills include a change order for JJ Phelan of \$84k, including re-engineering of tank sizes, additional rock removal (ledge?), sodding vs. seeding the library grass. The total seems large for our project; Rich Nota (DPW) is working on managing this number down. Paying current bills will leave us roughly \$100k to begin round two of the stormwater treatment project.
6. Mr. Johnson recommends we close out the first part of the state grant for BHP-2 through BHP-6, before we move onto the second grant for BHP-7 and BHP-8.

Drawdown

1. Pond level was at 3.5 feet on Saturday Oct. 23rd as planned. However, the Rowing

team hit rocks with their boats several times during the week. So apparently 3.5 feet is too low. We will need to re-evaluate the plan for next year, or perhaps try to take a few more inches off the rocks during this coming winter. We agreed to call Rich Nota about putting a board back in the dam to get the level back up a few inches for the last few days of the season.

2. We have not started pumping yet, but start on Sunday Oct. 31, to run continuously.
3. We will do a mussel count when the level reaches 5 feet per the NOI.

Beach Excavation

1. We expect Horsley Witten's excavation plan within a week or two. Northeast Environmental is also giving us input. They said permitting will require input from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, an NOI, perhaps a topo map.
2. The plan is to pursue this next year. Design phase will be now through March, 2011; we will go to bid in the spring, and plan to begin construction in the summer.

Stormwater Treatment Project

1. Horsley Witten's forthcoming proposal will also include new work on BHP-7 and BHP-8. There is already some construction underway on BHP-7.
2. We will go to CPC in December for additional funding for this project. We won't have designs to show them by this time, but will have estimates as we have in the past.

Outreach

1. We discussed arranging a meeting of town residents, a "meeting of the minds" to talk about and try to conclude on two points:
 - a. Uses and priorities for the pond, among various users (property owners aka "abutters", Rowing Association, general public, beach users, Conservation Commission, BOS, etc).
 - b. Ongoing weed management and reduction, including additional treatment options such as chemicals, spot dredging.
2. Deb Pierce is trying to reach the UMass grad student about plans.
3. Someone to find out what Hudson/Stow spent on chemical treatment of Boon Pond.
4. We need a plan to measure, track, study, and implement additional countermeasures for pond weeds, especially in those areas not addressed by drawdowns.
5. We discussed the possibility of a door-to-door campaign of watershed abutters to engage them in learning about our efforts and plans, and how they can help manage weeds in the pond. Ideas include using "I love my pond" buttons or stickers for people who are following prescribed actions (e.g. avoiding fertilizers). Mr. Gormley suggested turning this into a Bromfield senior project, and will contact Jim O'Shea about the possibility.

Budget 2011

Mr. Johnson alerted us to the fact that our 5-year budget plan was due Friday the 29th, and with Mr. Leicher in attendance at the meeting and busy with work, we would fail to deliver it on time unless we got it done this evening. The committee agreed to take on this additional agenda item, which proceeded as follows:

1. The BOS is looking for a 5-year budget to include areas where we might conceivably save some money in future years. Mr. Johnson guided us to avoid just submitting a level budget for each of the five years, and suggested the BOS is looking for a

reasonable effort to save where feasible, while also indicating any increases that will be unavoidable.

2. Ups and downs that are reasonable to expect include:
 - a. Harvesting costs to drop, given our progress with water chestnuts.
 - b. Possibility of cost offset from hydro power revenue in later years.
 - c. BMP maintenance post-stormwater treatment project.
 - d. New treatment efforts for pond weed management (e.g. chemicals).
 - e. Electricity usage dropping further, greater use of gravity draw.
 - f. Additional monitoring of watershed ecology to meet Cons Comm request.
 - g. Possibility of renting out the harvester to other towns.
3. We agreed and voted unanimously by motion, in favor of the following 5-year budget:
 - a. Level budget of \$33,500 for each of the next two years.
 - b. Year 3 – drop to \$28-29,000 due to lower electricity and harvesting costs.
 - c. Year 4 – increase to \$30,000 to account for additional monitoring costs.
 - d. Year 5 – back to \$33,500 due to increase in monitoring, new treatments and maintenance, and inflation.

Other

1. Mr. Johnson again raised the idea of generating hydro power from spillway flow, for discussion. He is in contact with Ed Barren and Brian Smith in town about viability. Mr. Blanck also knows someone he will contact about this, and will report back.
2. Regarding the Cons Comm's request for a consulting biologist to review our pond management methods and plans, we decided to tell Cons Comm we would first use "free" resources (town residents – Michell Girard; DEP), then only if our needs are not met to enlist a paid consultant. Mr. Leicher will write a letter in respond to Cons Comm's inquiry on this.
3. As has been usual for our committee, we agreed to meet just once over the next two months due to the holiday season. Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 22. In January our meetings will revert to the fourth Monday of each month.
4. Responding to the Cons Comm's request for input on the Hunter project NOI, we agreed that Mr. Leicher would send a letter to the Cons Comm with our normal conditions (protective barriers, stormwater treatment), and requesting a plan for any trees which will be removed, along with a re-planting plan to replace them.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 10:15pm.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting (Attached):

1. Meeting agenda
2. GPR map of 24 Cove Drive (Hunter property) plans, for permit application.
3. DEP Progress Report Form, 7/1/10 to 9/30/10, for Stormwater Treatment grant, along with related attachments to the form including project photos, newspaper editorial, contractor invoices, DPW expenditures, and town volunteer hours for reimbursement.