

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: November 22, 2010, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

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

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS); Tom Cotton (Rowing Association)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Mr. Ritter.

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

Minutes from our October meeting were reviewed and approved by motion, unanimously, with the exception of one change on page two (move #3 under Beach Excavation to Stormwater section).

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ritter

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500	Paid electric bill ~ \$1,500.00	\$ 2,302.10
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 0.00
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 85,108.71
	Gift account		\$ 238.55
	Total		\$ 87,649.36

1. Best estimate of electricity cost for pumping this season is under \$3,000.

Drawdown

1. We're now at 6' 3" roughly.
2. Tom Cotton of the Rowing Association thanked us for accommodating them with our plan to limit the drawdown to 3.5 feet until after the season. However, they did hit rocks after we went below 3 feet, and the coaches weren't happy about it.
3. Mr. Leicher believes the DPW may have gone beyond 3.5 feet, which could account for the problems. He believes we could possibly limit the drawdown to 3 feet until after the season next year.

Beach Excavation and Stormwater Treatment Project

1. Mr. Blanck is expecting proposals from Horsley Witten for beach excavation, BHP-8, and additional sites, but has heard nothing yet.
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. It's urgent that Horsley Witten get this done soon before snow covers the ground.
3. Mr. Browse will attend the CPC meeting on December 1 to present an update on the stormwater project. Our application for further (~\$40k) CPC funds is already in.

4. BHP-7 is finished. Ballfield fixes are also completed. But Liz Allard may not be satisfied yet with the results. Mr. Browse and Mr. Johnson will walk the sites with Ms. Allard after Thanksgiving, and work with Rich Nota to coordinate remaining work.

Outreach

1. Mr. Gormley has contacted Bromfield Principal Jim O'Shea about the possibility of a senior project surveying pond abutters on water quality maintenance practices. Mr. O'Shea said there are still students looking for projects, and he will be in touch if any students want to pursue this with us.
2. The Stormwater Treatment project's grant from DEP requires us to provide a certain amount of outreach to the community for education and awareness generation on water quality issues, including the work of the Pond Committee. Grant number three in particular requires much more outreach activity.
3. Timing of outreach requirements is in part related to our need for volunteer match hours, which will come due in March or June, 2011.
4. Mr. Gormley will work on defining and building a package of materials we could use to educate abutters and other residents. Focus will be on a. what we're doing for the pond now; b. what is working or not; and c. what else we might try to make further inroads on water quality and weed management.
5. We discussed the immediate target -- Pond vs. watershed abutters? We want to find out the boundaries of the "watershed". Mr. Gormley will contact Liz Allard to gather information.
6. Jaye Waldron will help us coordinate the interests of the Cons Comm in outreach to determine residents' goals, competing interests, and priorities for the pond.
7. Mr. Browse said a broader PR campaign is needed to "prime the pump" of resident interest, before we start sending abutters and residents information. A campaign could include newspaper articles, meetings, events. The committee agreed.
8. Issues to prime the pump with:
 - a. Pond weeds and water quality management is expensive. Costs the town thousands of dollars.
 - b. Limitations on pond use due to weeds and drawdowns – boating, fishing, rowing, skating, snowmobiling.
 - c. Preventing loss of the natural beauty of the pond and watershed.

Other

1. Ms. Pierce has had difficulty recently in reaching Diane Switzer and the UMass student who offered to work with us and Bromfield on water quality monitoring. We also have not received any of the loaner monitoring equipment promised us since our application was approved. Ms. Pierce will follow up with Ms. Switzer.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 9:25PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting (Attached):

1. Meeting agenda