

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: February 28, 2011, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

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

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS)

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

Secretary's Report – Mr. Blanck (in Mr. Gormley absence)
Minutes from January 4th and 24th, 2011 were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ritter

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500		\$ 0.00
01489	CPC grant of \$119,104		\$ 0.00
27023	State reimbursement fund		\$ 98,410.00
26612	Gift account		\$ 238.55
	Total		\$ 98,648.55

1. We will be submitting for reimbursement a total of \$54,875, yielding (ultimately) about \$153k of cash with all reimbursements in and one outstanding bill (Phelan CO @ \$81,187.40). There are some other bills coming plus electric bills, etc. Should be about \$60k left.

Stormwater Project / Finances

1. If we stop all projects completely, there will be about 50-60k of match still to meet. If we keep the projects open for 2 to 3 more quarters (for matches, e.g.), we will still have \$70-80k left for matches. We would turn back CPC money (assuming we get it) as we wouldn't need it.
2. If we move forward with all (three) BMPs (ca. \$100k), CPC plus our cash plus match, and proceed using cash towards match plus non-cash, we'll have enough for both projects and match. If we chose to do the BMPs plus excavation (counts as match) it's about the same. If we took the CPC funds, we'd end up more cash positive at the end of the project.
3. Do we need CPC money? Probably, due to cash flow needs. We could give back to CPC at the end or choose to reduce town omnibus budget request (self-fund part of our own budget). We should self-fund if we believe we won't tackle any (new) big initiatives. Self funding of town bodies is a good response to the town's structural deficit.
4. No matter what course of action the committee takes, we have more than enough resources to cover our obligations to close out the grant and meet our match. Major action if we do nothing further would be to turn back CPC funds (we won't know by April 2 whether we are

or aren't doing these projects). Not getting CPC funds on April 2 would still allow us to close out. We can do the evaluation portions of both proposals without CPC money. We do need to make our own decisions by (end of) June – whether we are going to do the three BMPs. We still need to do “BHP-8” (correcting flow at beach ramp).

5. Horsley-Witten proposals (dated December 1 and 17). Timing issues related to Horsley Witten survey planning? Not all tasks in Proposal 1 are required (e.g., Task 4 to 6 of proposal). We need to get the minimum level of tasks to take legacy document and add sufficient level of detail (possibly they could do it by May to enable June decision).
6. Mr. Ritter asked whether we totally ruled out other sites in the pond. We made a de facto decision not to look at other sites. It's likely that if the three sites in the current proposal aren't good, others aren't likely to be, either.
7. Mr. Hardy will work with Mr. Browse to transition the “project managing” of Horsley Witten. A MOTION to authorize Mr. Hardy and Mr. Browse to get revised a proposal for not to exceed \$25,000 and negotiate (Mr. Ritter seconded). Approved unanimously. Request report by May 1st.
8. BHP-8 is independent of these BMPs or excavation. We scrapped the original design and haven't redesigned yet. We need a new schematic plan and engineering (task 3 of December 17th letter). Task 1 is already authorized (but we've missed the window of opportunity, it seems, for this winter). Suspend the engineering of excavation. A MOTION to authorize Mr. Hardy and Mr. Browse to inform Horsley Witten of our intention to purchase Task 3 of the December 17th letter (following coordination with Park and Rec and DPW), for up to \$12k. Mr. Blanck - Second. Approved unanimously.
9. If work is being done near boat ramp, materials “upstream” should be adequate for heavy equipment to pass through to the beach. We need to revise our “design approach”; Mr. Browse will draft and circulate for comment. Run this past Park and Rec and Rich Nota as well to make sure there are no surprises. No firm deadline; provide only a heads up to them now. Could start on that after May 1st (for June 30th deliverables).

COLAP meeting

Bruce and Tom went to COLAP.

1. Tom brought a high school student (Carlson Beale), who is doing a senior science project with Mr. Holt to develop a dichotomous key of plants in the pond. Tom also sent Carlson some web links and a report from Wendy Gendron.
2. Ken Wagner was keynote; focused on new literature illustrating, with data, prevention/treatment/management vis-à-vis eutrophication. Phosphorous and eutrophication needs to be controlled. Studies correlated levels of phosphorous with eutrophication. Education of abutters to avoid using phosphorous may thus have the most effect, but is something we've done the least about (Bill).

Drawdown update

Up about ½ foot. Boards are out for replacement; hope to get it done by week's end, but may need to make a quick decision to replace old boards to enable refilling. Weather is a potential issue; might get it done by midweek. Design is clever, Bill Johnson observed.

Conservation Commission

1. Conscomm meeting rescheduled Thursday March 17th (8PM). Wendy wants to inform them about pond and lake management and then take their questions. Bruce encouraged her to stress the risk of eutrophication.
2. Our permit has been automatically extended by law in August (2 years).

Other

1. Outreach plans. Bruce provided materials to Tom (“Healthy Lawns for Healthy People”). We need to organize an event at the beach or neighborhood BBQ(s), Mr. Gormley and Ms. Pierce, this spring and summer.
2. Committee personnel, roles, and succession planning. Mr. Browse will not continue on the committee [after the current ends in May]. Mr. Ritter will be doing more of a “staff support” role (*de facto* treasurer). We need to recruit people who are interested in doing things. All members asked to think of candidates. Physical construction and maintenance is an obvious hole (to replace Mr. Browse). Someone to “keep the books” might be a good addition as well (to relieve Mr. Johnson of his assistance), and develop and maintain relationship with the State – may not be a need after the past year *per se*. Nature of committee isn’t just strategizing.
3. Maintenance plan for BMPs: Mr. Johnson said plans and written report(s) have to be done before the end of the first two grants. The suggestion is to hire Wendy to write reports. We have prototypes for maintenance plans and templates. We need someone to draft from the templates and pass back to Horsley Witten for review and comment. Need by mid-June. Mr. Browse will ask Horsley-Witten to get templates tomorrow. Mr. Blanck will coordinate the “transcription exercise”.
4. Suggestion made to organize a volunteer event to pull mats up at BHP-3 this summer. Invite Wendy and Conscomm to provide real-time feedback.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 9:10PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda