

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: June 27, 2011, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

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

Others Present: Bill Johnson (BoS); Peter von Losecke, Morey Kraus, Elizabeth Hogan, Paul Wood

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

New Committee Member Candidates

Several new candidates have applied for two soon-to-be-open committee member positions, and attended this meeting to introduce themselves and explain their backgrounds and interest in the role.

Mr. von Losecke – Pond abutter; has lived on the pond for his whole life.
Mr. Kraus – Pond abutter; scientist, interested in applying quantitative analysis to pond quality measures.
Mr. Wood - Has lived for many years on the pond; holds MS in Chemistry; was a school teacher and has knowledge of water testing. Mr. Wood is interested in researching and testing out new alternatives for invasive weed control.
Ms. Hogan - Student at Fitchburg State in Environmental Studies; has volunteered for water testing including Bowers Brook for the NRWA; grew up on the Pond

Mr. Leicher explained that we have just two openings for voting members, but encouraged all to get involved as volunteers or Associate Members, and said we need volunteers who will bring new ideas and get actively involved in the work outside of meetings. All candidates said they want to be involved whether as voting members or not. Mr. Leicher further explained that we need to be sensitive to having diversity on the Committee, including having roughly equal representation between pond abutters and non-abutters, and between neighbors on the pond. Given this, he proposed we put forth Ms. Hogan (non-abutter) and Mr. Wood as voting members for approval by the BOS, and Mr. von Losecke and Mr. Kraus as Associate members. All Committee members agreed to this approach. The BOS will vote on this at their July 17 meeting, which our candidates should plan to attend and speak for their candidacy.

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

Minutes from our May 23, 2011 meeting were approved with one change. Minutes from the June 18th outreach event were also approved.

Committee members congratulated Mr. Gormley on a well-organized and successful outreach event on June 18th.

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	Confirm! 9,241 on 5/23 plus ~59k	\$ 68,291.00
26612	Gift account		\$ 238.55
	Total		\$ 68,529.55

1. We received a check for roughly \$59,000 in match reimbursement by the DEP.
2. Mr. Johnson said we have tried to push out payment of non-matchable expenses as much as possible, and accelerated payment of matchable (including up-front work on the excavation project).
3. We will have more than enough funds to all three new BMPs, BHP-8, and excavation.
4. Mr. Johnson said we will try to close out grant #1 by September.

Stormwater Project

1. Mr. Blanck has an updated punch list for the current BMPs. Cons Comm is happy with the list. Some of the items are included in the contract, while others are considered new work to be paid in addition to the contracted terms. Rich Nota (DPW) has sent the list to our contractor, which has agreed to the list and will get it done.
2. Mr. Blanck said we will need additional oversight help in future BMP construction work, to manage the contractor.
3. The next 3 BMPs considered are Woodside Rd, Tahanto Rd., and Thurston's Cove (largest impact of the 3). Horsley Witten believes these 3 additional sites will have even more impact than the first 8 (840 pounds of phosphorous removal, vs. 520 pounds in the first 8 BMPs, if we are able to prevent the newly retained pollutants from re-entering the pond).
4. Mr. Browse recommended against the Tahanto Rd project because of the complexity of a private homeowner doing the BMP construction work himself. He also is opposed to the Woodside Rd. site because that sediment is already caught later in the flow before reaching the pond.
5. Mr. Johnson said the additional work on BHP-8 will be pushed out to 2012. Mr. Blanck questioned whether it is worth it. He suggested regular sweeping of the parking lot as an alternative to the current design proposed by Horsley Witten. Sweeping would catch sediment, but not much phosphorous. We are not in a rush to make this decision as the work wouldn't begin til spring, 2012 at the earliest. We agreed to put this off and speak with Rich Nota and Rich Claytor about it in the meantime.
6. Mr. Leicher proposed that we pursue the Thurston's site. Mr. Johnson suggested we put off a vote til our next meeting in July. Mr. Browse asked whether we are right to put all this activity on the Cons Comm's agenda.

Watershed Monitoring

Wendy Gendron went on our request to look for phragmites in the pond, based on reports of others, but she didn't find any. Instead she found native reeds which are probably helped by the drawdowns because they're seed bearing. In other areas she saw new, low-growing, native species rather than milfoil.

Drawdown update

1. Parks & Recreation has told us we have done enough already to accommodate the Rowing

Association and don't need to go any further to accommodate them this year vs. our approach last year.

2. Mr. Johnson asked whether we will need a new NOI this year. Mr. Leicher said he doesn't want to, and the Patrick (Governor) administration has signed a law to minimize Cons Comm bureaucracy by automatically continuing Notices of Intent, so no new permitting is needed for the drawdowns. The current permit is good through 2012 and won't need to be renewed until 2013.
3. Mr. Ritter made a motion to repeat the same drawdown schedule as last year, starting on Sept. 20, hold at 3.5' til the end of October, then pump to 6.5' (or 7' if we are going forward with the excavation project). Mr. Hardy seconded, and all voted in favor of this motion.

Excavation Project

1. It's still feasible to pursue this during the coming winter season.
2. Horsley Witten will handle the permitting process with the state. They have costed this task out at \$26,750. Mr. Browse made a motion to move forward with Horsley on this permitting step at the above cost. Mr. Leicher seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Other

1. Ms. Pierce volunteered to represent the Committee in the town's Master Planning meetings, which the BOS has requested.
2. We need to deliver a 5-year strategic plan to the BOS by Sep. 7, so it can wait til our next meeting. We should get new input from our newest voting and Associate members.
3. We will do one to two weed pulls this summer as planned, based on a tour of Clapps Brook. The first will be July 16th. Mr. Blanck will publicize and run it.
4. Outreach plans. Mr. Gormley proposed one or two additional outreach events, including one at the beach targeting the general resident population. It will be informal in contrast with the June 18th event, with information tables and staffed by members. Mr. Gormley will schedule, possibly in concert with a later weed pull in August.
5. Quarterly report. All members to submit their volunteer hours for the 2nd quarter, by June 30, so Mr. Gormley can compile and send them to Mr. Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 9:40PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Applications from new committee candidates.