

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: January 23, 2012, 7:30pm

Place: Hildreth House

Members Present: Mark Hardy, Tom Gormley, Paul Wood, Deb Pierce, Caroline Hart (student)

Associate

Members: Peter von Loesecke

Others: Jaye Waldron (Cons Comm), Bill Johnson (BoS)

At 7:30pm we lacked a quorum but discussed the status of the beach excavation project.

Beach Excavation Project

1. The excavation is roughly 80% done.
2. There has been some leaking out of the barricaded storage area for the muck. It's leaking into BMP-7 which is working just fine. This will be cleaned up in the spring.
3. The muck was an average of 3' deep. The new pond depth at the floating dock in the swim area will now be 13-14' deep.
4. The bottom surface is hard clay. Some muck is bound to flow back into the swim area over time.
5. The contractor had to deal with higher than expected water inflow from the stream, which required bigger pumps at greater expense. They are drafting a change order for the difference, which we won't accept. We'll agree to pay the value of the rental equivalent.
6. A suggestion was made to have a crew do some cleanup of junk in the beach area while the water is still down. Ms. Hart agreed to talk this up with the Rowing Association.

Mr. Wood arrived at 7:50, and a quorum then being present, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Hardy. We continued the discussion of the excavation project.

7. Mr. Gormley asked whether there is any written record documenting the project, what was done, what was learned, etc. Mr. Johnson said he would write a report for the quarterly state submission in the spring. There are lots of photos of the project at different stages. We will be able to look at the area again next year to see any changes.

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

1. Mr. Gormley reported trouble with printing the November meeting minutes, due to printer problems. We will review the minutes at our next meeting.

Fincom Meeting

1. Mr. von Loesecke presented our budget to Fincom. He received no final answer about the budget, but heard positive feedback about the impacts of our projects and methods – volunteer hours match, state grants, etc. They also asked about and encouraged us to pursue alternative methods for controlling invasive weeds, in other areas of the pond.

Alternative Weed Control Methods

1. Mr. Wood has started a discussion with a company in Sturbridge which has worked on other local ponds, about their use of alternatives such as herbicides and hydroraking. The cost of hydroraking is \$50-150 per foot. This method can go to 12 feet deep. Coincidentally, the owner of the company lives in Harvard.
2. The topic of herbicides hasn't been tested in town in a long time. Fanwort would be the biggest target species. The cost is very high.

Stormwater Treatment Project

1. In early December, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kraus met with members of Parks & Rec, Cons Comm, and Rowing Association, as well as Michelle West of Horsley Witten, to review additional stormwater treatment opportunities, mainly the parking lot but also including managing runoff at Mr. Kraus's property.
2. Ms. West will develop a plan to address these opportunities, including changes to beach parking, rainwater collection where the canoes are stored, relocation of canoe racks, and widening of the boat ramp.
3. Timing envisioned is:
 - a. Jan-February for evaluation of the site and options.
 - b. March – permitting.
 - c. May – construction plans
 - d. September after Labor Day – starting plantings, rain garden development
 - e. November – parking lot, boat ramp, after drawdown of 6-6.5 feet.
4. Mr. Hardy will work with Horsley Witten to prepare information for Cons Comm and Parks & Rec before our February meeting.
5. We have kept \$135k in reserve for all of these.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. von Loesecke did not have an updated account of balances but provided the following via email the following week. These of course were not discussed during this meeting.

01490	Annual budget of \$33,500		\$ -2,606
52039	CPC grant of \$79,000		\$ 73,750
27023	State reimbursement fund	ESTIMATE (to be updated)	\$ 109,387
26612	Gift account		\$ -13
01489	Dam repair		\$ 10,607
	Total		\$ 191,124

Mr. von Loesecke will work with Fred Aponte to reverse a charge of \$2,606 incorrectly associated with our regular budget account, and allocate it to 27203.

Other

1. Mr. Gormley suggesting writing another article in the Press / Post about the excavation project, now that it's nearly done. He will contact Marty Green at the Press about it.
2. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gormley to write a blurb about Outreach for the Q4 quarterly report to the state.
3. Someone suggested creating a photo collage of pond committee activities to display at the upcoming spring town meeting. Ms. Pierce raised again the need for a Pond Committee banner to use at such events. Mr. Johnson will provide Ms.

Pierce with a photo to use.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 8:55 PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Treasurer's report