

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: February 27, 2012, 7:30pm

Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Mark Hardy, Tom Gormley, Paul Wood, Bruce Leicher (chair), Bob Blanck

Associates: Peter von Loesecke, Morey Kraus

Others: Jaye Waldron (Cons Comm), Bill Johnson (BoS), John Lee (Parks & Rec), Tom Cotton (Rowing Assoc.), Will Stevenson (Lycott Environmental)

Mr. Leicher opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Stormwater Treatment Project – BMP-8 (Beach, including parking lot and boat ramp addition)

1. Michelle West from Horsley Witten (HW) attended a Cons Comm meeting a few weeks earlier to get feedback and hear questions about the project. Her response was summarized in an email which was distributed to the Committee. Parks & Rec has also responded and attended our meeting this evening to answer any questions about their views.
2. These and our committee's input from this evening will be discussed again by Cons Comm on March 31, and HW will prepare additional materials in response. Parks & Rec will then hold a formal public hearing in late March to gather public input.
3. Our Committee will have a chance to review the feedback again at its March 26 meeting, before Cons Comm holds a form NOI hearing in April. Assuming positive feedback, the next step would be construction drawings in May.
4. Our representatives from Cons Comm, Parks & Rec, and Rowing, at this meeting, all said they support this plan and timeline.
5. The boat ramp's width will be doubled. We need to "get it right" this time – the current ramp being too narrow and covered with beach sand. Should the ramp have sides, to keep sand from washing over? Some feel this will be unnecessary at the double width. It was suggested that we visit other local ponds to see their boat ramps, as input to the design.
6. Park & Rec's input is similar to that of Cons Comm:
 - a. Minimal parking at the beach – 4 spots (1 handicap, 3 drop-off)
 - b. Fences between parking and the beach will be a nuisance (kids climbing on). How do we keep plantings from being trampled? Mr. Blanck will work with HW on plant selection.
 - c. The new parking / turnaround area will be large enough for a vehicle with a 24' trailer to turn around. Is this large enough? Mr. Stevenson suggested we go larger, to accommodate the harvester, Rowing vehicles. But this new area will be at least as wide as the current parking area, according to Mr. Johnson. The idea is for any vehicles that are too big to turn around in this space will have to turn around and back in from somewhere above the parking lot.
 - d. New boat rack space will have as many as eight racks.
 - e. Parks & Rec suggests a "real" gate rather than the current rope, for vehicles to pass through when coming down to the beach parking area. This would not create an issue for required public access since our formal public access is in the south bay.

7. Separate from the BMP-8 project, we have decided to postpone any further discussion of other stormwater treatment areas at Thurstons Cove and Warren Avenue, in order to focus on the beach for now. Funds for the work on those areas will be shifted to the BMP-8 project.

Motion: To amend the current HW contract to shift the funds previously planned for Thurstons and Warren stormwater treatment, to the above beach project. The vote on this motion was unanimous in favor.

Alternative Weed Control Methods

1. Mr. Wood invited Will Stevenson from Lycott Environmental to join our meeting this evening, to explain his company's offerings for weed control as additional methods for invasive weed control. Mr. Stevenson, a Harvard resident for 15 years, is a civil engineer by training. His company focuses on weed management services for northeastern U.S. water bodies, including harvesting, drawdowns, scuba diving / weed pulling, benthic barriers, and chemical treatments.
 - a. The diving / pulling / suction method (DASH) costs \$12k per week for four divers, and can cover one acre per week. It's not effective for fanwort because it fragments too easily. But it can be effective for milfoil. The best time of year is May-June, when the plants are small.
 - b. SONAR (chemical) can reduce but not eliminate invasives like fanwort. It's too expensive for treating milfoil. It can't be used within ¼ mile of any well. In Mr. Woods' neighborhood, there are 40 homes with wells within ¼ mile of the pond.
2. Given the variable efficacy of different methods for fanwort vs. milfoil, we need to gather more information about the prevalence (split) of these two species in the pond.

Other

1. Mr. Leicher reported having attended the Open Space meeting (Master Planning). The next meeting is this Wednesday night. Mr. Wood said he would attend for the Committee.
2. Drawdown. Mr. Leicher said the pond is refilling faster than in prior years. It's up by 2.5 to 3' already.
3. Excavation project. Rich Nota (DPW) has reported success in negotiating a price for the cost overrun. The town will pay \$30k for the additional materials, vs. the \$90k originally requested by the contractor. Removal of the muck and cleanup will begin shortly.
4. Mr. Wood attended the annual COLAP meeting in Worcester in late January. It was a good event, with several helpful sessions and opportunities to meet other pond management groups from other towns.
5. Outreach. Mr. Gormley has not yet spoken with Marty Green about an article in the newspaper about the excavation project's results. He will try again.

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

1. Mr. Gormley presented the meeting minutes from the prior two monthly meetings. The Motion to approve was unanimous in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 9:15 PM.

Tom Gormley

Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Prior months' meeting minutes – January, 2012 and November, 2011.
3. Horsley Witten (DRAFT) 25% Concept Plan for BMP-8 Stormwater Retrofit Project.
4. Lycott Environmental brochure and newsletter materials.