

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: August 27, 2012, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Tom Gormley, Bruce Leicher (chair), Bob Blanck, Deb Pierce, Paul Wood, Peter von Loesecke

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

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

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

The committee reviewed the July meeting minutes with one change on page 2. The *Motion to approve* was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

1. Mr. von Loesecke reviewed his monthly report of account balances, payments, revenue.
2. The project grant account should have a roughly additional \$30k in it.
3. We will be receiving a refund of some expenses from the beach excavation contractor.

Pond Monitoring – Mr. Leicher

1. There is a recent algal bloom in the pond, which looks like a green tint in the water column.
2. Mr. Leicher provided some photos and research from online sources to identify the type of algae bloom. Ms. Pierce took a sample and studied it under a microscope, concluding it isn't bacterial.
3. It doesn't appear to be the toxic, blue-green algae type, but we are sending samples to our biologist consultant Wendy Gendron to help us evaluate it.
4. Mr. Leicher learned that trying to kill the algae with chemicals carries a risk that any toxins would be released if attacked.
5. The Board of Health already tests the pond water weekly so we see no need to alert them.

Outreach – Mr. Gormley

1. Mr. Gormley has been in contact with the Press to write an article about the beach excavation's positive results. Mr. Johnson will supply some facts and figures for support.
2. Ms. Pierce suggested we host a table again at the upcoming Fall Festival (Sept. 9) and / or Flea Market (Oct. 6). She will send in our application.

Other

1. Mr. Leicher raised the possibility of applying for a grant from the Mass. Environmental Trust. We have applied twice before and were rejected both times, but we could try again to get some financial support for:
 - a. additional weed and water quality surveys (3 times per year),
 - b. studying additional transects or downstream wetlands, or
2. alternative invasive weed countermeasures such as sucking, raking.

The timing for application begins in October, with a full application due in March, 2013. Mr. Leicher said we'd stand a better chance if we chip in town match funds, perhaps \$20k. Mr. Leicher and Ms. Glew will pursue the initial inquiry. Mr. Blanck will contact town resident and President of Lycott who visited us before, to get estimates of the costs for such alternatives.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 8:35 PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Prior months' meeting minutes – July, 2012.
3. Treasurer's report, August 2012.
4. Online research regarding algal blooms in ponds.