

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: January 28, 2013, 7:30pm
Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Tom Gormley, Bruce Leicher (chair), Megan Glew, Peter von Loesecke, Caroline Hart

Others: Jaye Waldron (Cons Comm)

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

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the prior monthly meeting (November, 2012). The *Motion to approve* the minutes was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. von Loesecke

1. (see Mr. von Loesecke's monthly report) The report isn't 100% accurate yet, as Mr. von Loesecke is expecting additional data from Bill Johnson (BoS).
2. On February 6, after this meeting, Mr. von Loesecke provided an updated financial report showing remaining planned expenditures for the fiscal year of \$99,500.

Drawdown

1. Mr. Leicher said the Refill notice went out in the mail to abutters. The refill will start by the end of the week of February 1.
2. The pump house had a leak caused by freezing weather, which Mr. Leicher was able to repair at low cost with parts purchased locally. The pump runs every day. Mr. Leicher checks it weekly.

Outreach and Education

1. Mr. Leicher, Mr. von Loesecke, and Ms. Waldron attended the MA-COLAP session in late January in Worcester. A couple of residents from the Bowers Brook area also attended.
2. One session about algae showed what we saw last summer, classified as green algae. Our members learned that a good treatment for this is alum which binds with phosphorous in the pond and then drops to the pond bottom and stays there. There are no known side effects of this treatment. Estimated cost for our use would be \$30,000.
3. Experts there also said they thought our algae blooms last summer could be related to problems in abutter septic systems.
4. Will Stevenson, owner of Lycott, who came to one of our meetings last year to talk about treatment options, made a presentation at the event. He was realistic about the efficacy and impacts of various treatments in treating invasive weeds. We discussed bringing Mr. Stevenson (also a Harvard resident) back for another meeting to discuss hydro raking.
5. Mr. Gormley and Mr. Leicher visited with a group of Bowers Brook residents in December to see the situation they've been telling us about with growing weed problem which they have sometimes said they believe is due to the drawdowns. They want our help to try something,

including chemical treatments, which experts have told us will not be effective in this area. They'd like to try the harvester, which we agreed to and offered to train one of them to use it in the spring. It will provide short-term positive results, but provide no long-term improvement in the weeds there. Mr. von Loesecke will contact Mr. Stevenson of Lycott to review the use of hydro raking in this area.

Monitoring

1. We will use Wendy Gendron again this coming year for monitoring, including extra monitoring done every three years. We discussed how helpful it would be if other members of Cons Comm would join us this year as Wendy Sisson did last year, to learn from Wendy Gendron and see first hand what we're finding.
2. We will again use Wendy Gendron's monitoring visits as an outreach opportunity. Mr. Gormley will promote the opportunity early, invite residents to join in, and arrange discussion time at the beach after the monitoring trip.

Other

1. The grant application submitted by Ms. Glew to the MA Environmental Trust was not accepted.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 8:30 PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Prior months' meeting minutes – November, 2012.
3. Treasurer's Report for January, 2013 (Mr. von Loesecke provided an updated report via email on February 6).