

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

MEETING NOTES

Date: April 22, 2013, 7:30pm

Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Tom Gormley, Bruce Leicher (chair), Peter von Loesecke, Paul Wood, Megan Glew

Others: Janet Waldron (Cons Comm); Wendy Gendron (consultant); Will Stevenson (Lycott International); Don Soja (associate, frog count support); and several residents who came to discuss weed management at the south end of the pond

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

Treasurer's Report – Mr. von Loesecke

1. (not included here...Secretary arrived late and missed the report ... will update)

Secretary's Report – Mr. Gormley

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the prior monthly meeting (March, 2013). A *Motion to approve* the minutes was unanimous in favor.

Monitoring – Ms. Gendron

1. Ms. Gendron completed her first monitoring visit to the pond last week and will provide a report. She reported to the committee and residents on what she's seen happening in the pond over the years:
 - a. The drawdown has had a positive impact on reducing invasives in the pond.
 - b. Coverage (spread) of weeds is the same as it used to be, but their height is significantly reduced. Weeds such as milfoil used to top out are now replaced with lower growing weeds including natives.
 - c. But fanwort is increasing which is typical as it outcompetes other plants and is less affected by drawdowns.
 - d. There are also more cattail, seed producing plants, and yellow iris (which we originally thought were phragmites).
2. She will return in June for a second test, and will bring Mr. Stevenson with her to observe the weed situation.

Drawdown and Other Weed Management Methods – Mr. Stevenson, Ms. Gendron, residents, others

1. In the south bay where the drawdown isn't helping to reduce weed accumulation, we have several other options for consideration, including hydro-raking, herbicides, and harvesting.
2. The downside of harvesting is it scatters weed fragments which can spread, making it worse.
3. Herbicides. Requires both an NOI from Con Comm and a permit from DEP.
 - a. Contact herbicides kill the weeds but not forever. Best time to use is June since it's only good for a season. Town of Athol has used them for 3 years on fanwort over 40 acres. Spot treatments can be effective.

- b. SONAR gets to the roots. Using “curtains” to contain herbicides to a limited area are not 100% effective.
- c. Hydro-raking costs about \$2,000 / day which can cover about a quarter acre. But removal of the material is extra cost and can be substantial. Can be used to cut a channel but will only be effective for about 6 weeks. In this the recommendation is to harvest first, then hydro-rake. Need an NOI from Con Comm (not DEP).
- d. Residents asked “shouldn’t we try a small test of herbicides in the pond”? The question is whether town voters would approve such a test. Residents have been against use of herbicides in the past.

Frog Counts

1. A group of 6 volunteers went out last night for the first count and heard a larger number of pickerel frogs than in recent years which was good news. Also heard plenty of peepers and a few American toads.

Other

1. The ZBA requested the Pond Committee review and comment on a new pond abutting property’s building expansion plans at the Mace’s residence. The expansion is not on the water side but behind the current house. We agreed to send our standard letter stating the requirement to avoid cutting down any vegetation in the wetland buffer zone, and to avoid increasing runoff into the pond.

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion at 9:00 PM.

Tom Gormley
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Prior months’ meeting minutes – March, 2013.
3. Treasurer’s Report for April, 2013.