

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 26 August 2013

Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Bruce Leicher (chair), Paul Wood, Brian McClain, Peter von Loesecke, Megan Glew

Mr. Leicher opened the meeting at 7:30pm with a quorum.

Secretary's Report

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the prior monthly meeting (22 July). A motion to approve the minutes was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Leicher and Mr. von Loesecke will meet after Labor Day to discuss various payments; including Wendy Gendron's bill, National Grid, and three orders from the Conservation Commission (one dating back to 1997 drawdown).

New Appointments for Committee

The committee discussed possible new appointments for FY2013 and the need for a new committee member; preferably someone who is a non-abutter. A motion to approve the following new appointments was unanimous in favor:

Bruce Leicher as Chair

Tom Gormley as Co-Chair

Megan Glew as Secretary

Peter von Loesecke as Treasurer

Inspection of Pond in July

Mr. Leicher provided a summary of the visit to the southern end of the pond with Wendy Gendron and Will Stevenson on 24 July 2013. Also participating on the tour were committee members, Mr. von Loesecke and Ms. Glew, and Wendy Sisson of the Conservation Commission. Several residents who live in the southern end of the pond participated as well. It appeared as though the drawdown knocked out milfoil and fanwort and that native species filled in that area of the pond. The non-native plant, yellow Iris, has increased along the shoreline, but it does not pose a problem for the shoreline residents when asked about it during the tour. There was a discussion of using the harvester for that area. Ms. Sisson reported to the Conservation Commission and they will not allow the use of the harvester without a permit, which was not necessary in the past.

Summer Monitoring

Wendy Gendron will conduct monitoring (6 transects with 20 data points each) of the pond in late August which will include plant identification and water quality data. This year was the first time she has seen noticeable decrease in fanwort and milfoil.

Conservation Commission Meeting

At the 05 September 2013 Conservation Commission meeting, Mr. Leicher will present a letter from the Pond Committee and drawdown plans to the members of the Commission. Wendy Gendron will present findings from her monitoring trips and answer questions.

Grant Celebration

The grant celebration with MA DEP on 08 August 2013 went well. The DEP official was excited about the improvement in phosphorus levels in the pond and thought that Bare Hill Pond was a rare success in the State. State Senator Eldridge, Conservation Commission Chair Paul Willard, past Chair of the Pond Committee, Bill Johnson, current Chair of the Pond Committee Bruce Leicher among others were present at the event. There was an article in the Harvard Press as well.

Public Service Project

Interest in having someone on the committee serve as a sponsor/mentor for a Bromfield senior student was discussed. A notice will be posted at the high school for the Pond Committee and Mr. Wood will take the lead on the project and suggested that projects should be multi-year and therefore, begin before the start of the student's senior year.

Rowing Controversy

Harbor Master Bob O'Shea upset. Mr. Leicher has received calls regarding issues with the Rowing Association and the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Pond Committee is not getting directly involved in the issue. However, a short discussion took place about not supporting the use of rowing during high traffic times on the pond during the summer and the need for the student rowers to be better monitored as the coaches are not doing it.

The meeting was adjourned by a proper motion at 8:40pm.

Megan A. Glew
Secretary

Documents Reviewed at Meeting:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes from July 2013 meeting
3. Letter from Wendy Gendron regarding inspection of pond on 24 July 2013