

HOLLAND LAKE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on October 19, 2015

Called to Order: 7:03

Attendance: John Stevens, Lynn Arnold, Chad Brigham, Suzanne Wilbur, Jeanne Crowley (for Chris McCooe)

Absent: Eli Gillen, Dennis Allard, Chris McCooe

New Business:

- Al Collings from Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield attended the meeting and spoke on Lake Wickaboag's approach to fundraising, planning and permitting for their dredging project.
- West Brookfield formed a storm water authority to oversee the cleaning and maintenance of catch basins and to implement new projects.
 - First project: Installed storm water treatment system (similar to a septic system with a leach field) on town property that is cleaned once a year.
 - Second project: Dredging two small ponds, one on town property (completed with grant money), and one on private property (paid for by property owner, in kind). Permitting for this project was completed by ESS of Boston and ESS was paid from the grant.
 - Since completing the second project, they have found an increase in milfoil in that area this summer.
- Currently they are working on the larger dredging project in the northern portion of the lake. The steps they have taken to date are:
 - Preparing an RFP for the project, broken into segments with each segment authorized after the town has the money.
 - They received three bids and selected APEX with an initial cost of \$100k to perform the conceptual design and preliminary permitting.
 - The lake association prepared a fundraising appeal and raised \$152,000. The lake associate is a 501(c)(4) so donations would not have been tax deductible. Donations have instead been made into a town treasury fund designated for the dredging project.
 - Contracted an expert, Robert Douglas, to perform a second opinion report at a cost of \$4,400. Douglas confirmed they were on the right course.
 - Worked with their state senator to be included in an environmental bond bill for \$5 million. The money is earmarked for Lake Wickaboag, but not a done deal.
 - Done extensive networking with state senators, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, Ken Chen of DEP and other groups and officials.
 - Current challenge: determining where the dredged material will be placed and how it will get there. Town has a couple of options they are exploring.
 - Overall the dredging project is estimated to be close to \$5 million including engineering costs.
- Overall, West Brookfield has not been satisfied with the services provided by APEX and would not recommend them.

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne Wilbur, Secretary

C: Select Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Highway
Department, File