

**Millbury Ponds and Lakes Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12, 2017**

A Meeting of the Millbury Ponds and Lakes Commission was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street, Millbury, MA.

Member Terry Burke Dotson presided.

Members present: Terry Burke Dotson, Bruce Hjort, Barbara Carriere, and Matthew Haddad

**7:00 p.m. : Call to Order and Open the Meeting**

Pledge of Allegiance

**7:15 Reorganization of the Board**

Chairman: Terry Burke Dotson  
Vice Chairman: Bruce Hjort  
Secretary: Barbara Carriere

**7:25 Citizen's Speak**

Matt Ashmankas was included in the discussion about the possible steps in pursuing the Massachusetts Department of Public Works to accept some role of responsibility in fixing the Brierly Pond dam . Discussion continued about who actually owned the 2 dams, taking the one on Beach St. by eminent domain, and the possible need for fixing the dams.

Mr. Ashmankas offered to lead a walk-around the Town-owned land at Brierly's Pond to potentially find the best place for consideration for locating a Town parking lot near the gate to the Conservation land on Old Common Road, and a walkway to a potential swimming area. A meeting date and time for this walk-around was set for Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**8:00 Ramshorn Pond Update**

Bruce Hjort reported that the reconstruction of the dam is going very well and that the pond is beginning to refill.

Discussion concerned removing plant growth around the toad area which will eventually impact the dam on West Main Street, and beaver control.

**8:15 Massachusetts Great Ponds List Report** by Bruce Hjort

Any project located in, on, over or under the water of a great pond is within the jurisdiction of Chapter 91. A great pond is defined as any pond or lade that contained more than 10 acres in its natural

state. Ponds that once measured 10 or more acres in their natural state, but which are now smaller, are still considered Great Ponds.

This is a county-by-county listing of Great Ponds in Massachusetts, according to a 1996 Waterways Program Study. This listing was last revised in January 2014 (adding a pond n Barnstable County).

Those in Millbury are the following:

- Dorothy Pond
- Ramshorn Pond (Sutton)
- Singletary Pond (Sutton)

Mr. Ashmankas mentioned that having a designation of being a "Great Pond" opens the possibility of more state funding for improvements. He will look into Brierly Pond being considered.

**8:20 Ownership of Brierly Pond dams** by Terry Burke Dotson

The former Millbury DPW supervisor had told Ms. Dotson that the block dam next to the State Road, West Main Street, was owned by the Massachusetts DPW, and the owner of the dam on Beach Street was unknown.

Ms. Dotson called the Massachusetts DPW and was told that they have no such dam on Brierly Pond in Millbury listed as their responsibility.

MA DPW told her to contact: Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Dam Safety in West Boylston, MA (508) 792-7716 ext. 600, Rachael Hart. Ms. Dotson will follow up on this.

**8:25 Other Items**

Discuss need for finding more Commission members

**8:30 Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Carriere  
Barbara Carriere (Member/Secretary/Clerk)

Attest: Terry Burke Dotson  
Chairman, Terry Burke Dotson

Bruce Hjort  
Vice Chairman, Bruce Hjort

Matthew Haddad  
Member, Matthew Haddad

Ken Schold  
Member, Ken Schold