

MILLBURY PONDS AND LAKES COMMISSION (page 1 of 3)

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MILLBURY, MASS
TOWN CLERK

Minutes of meeting Nov. 4, 2015 Town Hall

Call to order of open meeting 7:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Chair - Terry Burke Dotson, Asst. Chair Ken Schold, Secretary/Clerk Marie Cafferty, and Bruce Jhort.

Agenda:

Minutes of Oct. 29. Meeting corrected, approved and signed.

Citizens Speak: no one requested this privilege.

A) The Town should be responsible for identifying and monitoring the access points to its lakes and ponds. Marie reported that Ramshorn Pond would have canoe access as soon as the dam is finished; the Watershed Association is working on the monitoring of this. Singletary has a beach and a boat ramp. The Dorothy Pond Reconstruction Committee and the Watershed Associations had worked on these issues; we first needed to learn what they have accomplished. We have not heard from the Brierly Pond Assn. They are waiting for news of ownership of the dam. Ken and Bruce commented on these items, and Terry agreed that this was a work in progress.

B) Develop a town policy for identifying and monitoring the access to its Lakes and Ponds. Marie submitted a written statement of the policy or mission statement for this Commission, which we should present to the Selectman. This was read and a copy enclosed with these minutes. The members responded positively to this. The Chair asked us to table this until she had time to research the state laws regarding the town's responsibility for de-weeding and monitoring of boat ramps. Ken said that as he sees it our role is to take care of the waterways, not to police all the people using them. The members agreed to table this proposal to our next meeting.

C) Gain a report from the Town's Conservation Commission and Public Works Department on their involvement and responsibility toward the Town's Lake and Ponds.

Ken suggested we do not proceed with these items until we first establish with the Board of Selectmen exactly what our role is. A discussion followed on the possibility of ascertaining the original directives given to our Commission. It was decided that Ken would check his records on the date it was founded, and he suggested Marie could ask the town clerk to check the records regarding his original swearing in as a member. Marie will then use this information to search the Selectmen's minutes for this information. Terry said she needed to research the State laws on this.

Marie reported that she had requested a meeting with the DPW Director concerning their involvement with public access and was waiting for a reply.

D) Financing the de-weeding of Lake and Ponds should be the responsibility of the town.

E) Write a Warrant Article for a line-item budget for the Town's Lake and ponds.

Terry combined these two items. She made a rough draft of the Warrant Article regarding these items. She read her draft; a printed copy of this is attached to the minutes. She said items referring to monitoring needs would depend on whether or not State law required this.

Discussion that followed was primarily concerned with whether or not the Town was responsible for the items listed. Ken pointed out that the boat washing stations would actually cost thousands of dollars more than was estimated. Bruce pointed out that Ramshorn Pond did not need de-weeding this year, as it was a clean pond. Terry responded that she was looking to future needs. Terry emphasized that a Warrant Article did not stand a chance at Town meeting unless the people could have public access Ken and Marie stated there were many problems with public access that we need to consider. An example was given of the recent abuses of town land off Riverland Street that affords access to Dorothy Pond. These matters need to be addressed. Ken pointed out that the ponds were small and could not accommodate large numbers of boats.

Marie stated that we also need to consider writing a series of articles for the Chronicle that would educate the public on the costs involved in constructing boat ramps, boat-washing stations and monitoring to prevent weed proliferation. We need to recap what time and money has gone into saving our waterways by both the Town and the Watershed Associations. The public needs to understand that public access will cost the taxpayers a considerable amount of money.

Ken said Marie is right when she says we must first learn what our role is, what the Selectmen expect, before we decide to propose a warrant. Terry agreed, we need also to know the State law on the Town's responsibility regarding public access, de-weeding and monitoring.

F).Request the Town's DPW to clean the "Storm Septers" along Lake Singletary, Dorothy Pond, Ramshorn and Brierly.

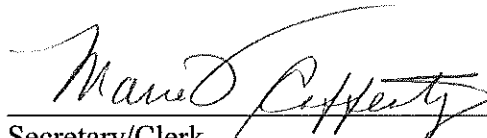
Ken reported he did not have time to make this request. It is now too late in the season to do this work. Marie said she was going to ask the DPW Director about the costs involved in this task. She wondered whether the cost should be in a warrant article prepared by this commission so that the DPW could clean these drains. It was also noted that Ramshorn and Brierly did not have septic drains and Singletary is mostly in Sutton.

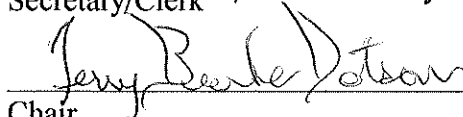
Ken stated that we could not do anything more until we knew what the Selectmen deemed was our purpose and responsibilities. We also needed to know exactly where the legal chain of command we were under begins.

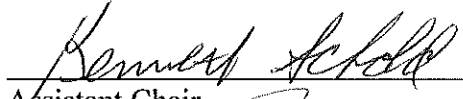
Motion to adjourn made, seconded and voted on at 8PM.


- Attachments: 1. Proposal of policy for Ponds and Lakes.
2. Proposed Warrant Article

Respectfully submitted :


Secretary/Clerk


Chair


Assistant Chair



"Warrant Article for Funding Millbury Ponds and Lakes Commission"

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, or borrow under the provisions of MCL C. 44, or any other enabling authority, a sum of money not to exceed the amount of \$143,500.00 be in compliance with the Massachusetts Law and to the control of water weeds, lake water testing, install locking gates that open for launching boats onto the water, hiring a part-time monitor for checking boats entering our waters, hiring a part-time secretary to record and to submit the Commission's meeting minutes etc., hiring a surveyor to mark the access points to the waters, and place permanent markers at each accesses 4 points.

Secretary:	2,000
Monitor:	12,000 (30 calls/wk for 26 weeks)
Cell Phone for Monitor:	1,200
Surveyor for Accesses	10,000
Monuments to Mark Accesses	10,000
4 Locked Gates for Waters:	2,000
4 Wash Stations for boats	4,000
Weed Control:	
S.	20,000
D.	8,000
RH	5,000
B	5,000
Lake Testing:	
S	2,700
D	2,000
RH	1,500
B	1,500
Plan & Surveys:	
S	10,600
D	9,000
RH	5,000
B	5,000

TOTAL \$143,500.00

Millbury Ponds and Lakes Commission

Policy Statement Proposed Nov. 5, 2015

Concern for the deteriorating condition of our inland waterways has led to the creation of Federal, State, and Town departments responsible for preserving our lakes and ponds as well as extending environmentally viable and personally safe access to recreational facilities for all our citizens. The Millbury Ponds and Lakes Commission will keep informed and respond to their policies, regulations and the resources which these departments make available to the town to achieve these goals.

The Commission will regularly consult with the Dorothy Pond Restoration Committee and the watershed associations of Brierly Pond, Dorothy Pond, Lake Singletary, and Ramshorn Pond to ascertain their current status and consult on ways we can enable and support their ongoing efforts to achieve these goals. The Commission will explore all avenues of public funding necessary to support these goals. The Commission will regularly submit summaries of their progress to the town.

The Commission will be responsible for reaching out to the public to generate a better understanding of the current environmental situation and proposals for recreational activities on ponds and lakes. The commission will consult with various town departments to coordinate our mutual efforts to benefit all our citizens.

Respectfully submitted for
consideration of the Ponds and Lakes Commission by Marie F. Cafferty