

Minutes of Wayland SWQC Meeting, 23 November, 2010

Prepared by Bob Goldsmith

Present: Toni Moores, Mike Lowery, Bob Goldsmith, Tom Largy, Lin Bradford

1. The meeting came to order at 7:30 PM There was no public comment.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by a vote of 5-0.
3. North Pond. Milfoil has returned. Mike has determined that DCR will have cost shared programs next year for ponds. Mike will take the lead in preparing a proposal, possibly with contributions from Framingham and Natick to match DCR's funding. Proposals are due in December.
4. Heard Pond. Tom hopes for a 2011 campaign with hand pulling only, and reduced cost.
5. Dudley Pond. Mike reported that the milfoil campaign for this year is finished, with the pond in the best condition in "living memory". The circulators are in winter storage next to Mike's home, and will be redeployed in spring, likely in their original locations. While there has been no apparent effect on milfoil growth, it was speculated that there may have been some effectiveness in limiting algae growth.

Toni discussed the work he is doing to develop a GIS overlay showing septic system locations on the eastern side of the pond. Note: groundwater flow enters on this side of the pond and exits on the westerly side. The purpose is to identify septic systems that may be bleeding nutrients into the pond. Bob will write a brief quarterly report to the CPC on the circulator program.

6. Doran Road Committee. Mike was selected by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mike abstained) to represent SWQC on the committee.
7. The committee discussed Mike's program to modify the Town's laddered water bills, which have a sliding scale that effectively decreases the incremental rate with increasing water usage. The committee members felt that the rate structure should be changed to provide a disincentive for increasing water use, i.e., increasing the rate for incremental use. Reduced water usage would reduce nutrient flow from septic system leachate into ponds (Dudley Pond especially) and could reduce nutrient flow in stormwater by discouraging lawn watering and nutrient runoff. The committee voted 4-0-1 (Mike abstained) to support Mike's efforts and to write a letter to the Board of Public Works to this effect..

Capital Improvement Surcharge

VOLUME	WATER USED cubic feet	WATER COST	CAP FEE	TOTAL WATER BILL	COST per 100 CU FT	CAP FEE % Of total bill
LOW	1700	\$55.60	\$118.00	\$173.60	\$10.21	68%
AVERAGE	6000	\$260.00	\$118.00	\$378.00	\$6.30	31%
HIGH	10000	\$624.00	\$118.00	\$742.00	\$7.42	15%



WHAT'S WRONG?

- Inequitable— not based on usage.
- Discourages conservation
- Cost Burden falls hardest on those least able to pay
- Use more, pay less per unit—up to 6000 cu ft/bill

** 2/3 of Wayland
Water bills are
6000 cu ft. or
less per
billing period*

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- *Pay As you Throw* worked for the landfill— **Make the surcharge usage-based.**
- Build the surcharge into the rate structure - **those who use the most, pay the most.**

- For the next year's budget, the committee voted 5-0 to include a program to make measurements of nutrients (esp. phosphorus and chlorophyll-a) and other parameters to be able to determine the "Carlson Index". This index is a measure of how close a pond is to eutrophication. It is speculated that Dudley Pond is approaching a threshold of nutrient inflows that could lead to eutrophication. Results from this analysis could lead to a possible recommendation to the Doran Road Commission for use of the Doran Road property to treat sewage better than is being achieved in individual septic systems. It could also lead to recommendations from the SWQC to the Town for better septic system maintenance and stormwater runoff control in pond watersheds.
- Budget preparation for the next fiscal year will be initiated. Tom will develop a budget for Heard Pond; Mike and Toni will develop budgets for the nutrient measurement program and Dudley and North Ponds; and Bob will consolidate the element costs and submit to Mike DiPietro.
- The committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at about 9:00 PM