

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 17 August 2020

Place: Online Zoom meeting

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Brian McClain, Pablo Carbonell, Peter Von Loesecke, Morey Kraus (Alternate Member) and Kerry Shrives (New Member)

Members Absent: Megan Glew

Others Present: Wendy Gendron (wetlands consultant performing Pond monitoring)

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:37pm

Secretary's Report

Minutes for July 2020 were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

All bills for FY 2020 have been paid and a surplus of approximately \$3,700 has been sent back to the town.

The Committee also discussed a request from DPW to have the Pond Committee fund an inspection of the dam – a cost of approximately \$4,400. The dam is classified as a “Significant Hazard” dam and must be inspected every 5 yrs. The Committee decided that this should not be a Pond expense and that it belongs in the DPW budget.

Drawdown Update and Plan for this year

Wendy Gendron attended the meeting and gave us an update on monitoring results and discussed future monitoring plans.

Wendy monitoring results show the following:

- * Surface phosphorus concentrations were generally low in both May & June and within the range of past years*

- * Phosphorus at the bottom was elevated but appears to be particulate as dissolved phos was low*

- * Dissolved oxygen was above 5 mg/L (desirable for fish) in May through most of the water column down to 22 feet*

- * Dissolved oxygen was low <5mg/L in water depths beyond 12 feet in June suggesting that biological oxygen demand is high and this loss of oxygen has occurred earlier this year. We did see this in 2018 as well. But generally DO below 5.0 mg/L occurs beyond 18 feet. The lack of oxygen can result in release of phosphorus bound in sediments.*

Something to watch....

** Plants were not overly dense in June, but summer has been hot and sunny so we are expecting dense vegetation later this summer*

** Some variability in yellow iris presence/absence but overall expansion was not observed.*

Future monitoring was also discussed with Wendy and the Committee agreed to reduce wetland and yellow iris monitoring to once every 3 years and to reduce the number of sites sampled. The Committee also agreed to extend monitoring until September to better track changes in dissolved oxygen levels.

Finally, the Committee agreed to propose a 6.5 foot drawdown this year to the Conservation Commission.

Pond Rules Discussion

The Committee continued discussion on a proposed change to the boating rules to address a potentially dangerous loophole. The rule states that boats must travel in a counterclockwise pattern unless going 20 MPH or slower.

The Committee voted to propose changing this to 5 MPH to reduce the chance of accidents involving un-trained boaters and to send this proposal on to the Harbor Master and to Parks and Rec to see if they also support a change in the town bylaws

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm
Brian McClain/Secretary