

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 21 September 2020

Place: Online Zoom meeting

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Kerry Shrives, Brian McClain, Pablo Carbonell, Peter Von Loesecke and Megan Glew

Members Absent: Morey Kraus (Alternate Member)

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:31 pm

Secretary's Report

August 17, 2020 minutes approved with minor correction.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's reports will be reviewed at next meeting.

Update on Algal Bloom

The cell count/toxicity levels in the Pond for tests taken on 2 dates were discussed:

1) Results for the Pond sponsored tests at 3 locations (Thurston's Cove, Town Beach, dam) in late August showed cell counts of 80,000 which is above the limit of 70,000 set by the State Department of Public Health's for a no-contact advisory. The toxic component of cyanobacteria (microcystin) was detected only at Thurston's Cove - and this was a relatively low reading. Based on these results the BOH is not lifting the current no-contact advisory.

2) Results the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's sponsored September 8 tests at 2 locations (Thurston's Cove and Town Beach) showed cell counts of 110,000, but toxic microcystin values were below the limit of detection. Improved water visibility was noted. Based on the high cell count the BOH is not lifting the current no-contact advisory.

The BOH will be doing another test tomorrow (Tuesday September 22).

Bruce/Pablo report that water is noticeably clearer - 4 foot secci disc reading.

Christopher Mitchell will act as liaison between the BOH and the BHPWMC and Select Board.

Update on Drawdown Plan

Bruce and Wendy Gendron (wetlands consultant performing Pond monitoring) attended the Conservation Commission meeting on Thursday September 3 and got conditional approval for a 6.5 foot drawdown. The condition is that the Pond must have at least a four foot visibility and that the toxicity tests are negative before a drawdown is allowed. This condition has been met.

The Pond is currently 8 inches down even before any boards at the dam are removed. DPW will start removing boards the first week in October. Pumping will commence once the Pond is 2.5-3 feet down (i.e. even with the wetlands behind the dam).

Miscellaneous

The Committee voted to advise the ZBA and the Conservation Commission that they had no objection to Pablo's re-application.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm
Brian McClain/Secretary