

# Bare Hill Pond Committee

Monthly meeting minutes for July

Town Hall, First Floor Harvard, MA

Name	Present	Name	Present
Bruce Leicher	Yes	Megan Glew	Yes
Brian McClain	Yes	Morey Kraus	No
Peter Von Loesecke	Yes	Steve Gordon	No
Joe Pettirossi	No	Ashwini Kumar	Yes

1	The meeting was overshadowed by the discussions around the Bromfield School Turf project. Various stakeholders passionately discussed the pros and cons of installing an artificial turf between the pond and the library (Pond field) citing the need for a viable playground for children especially during the time Hildreth elementary is rebuilt.
2	Proponents of the project cited a need for competitive field quality that neighboring towns already possess. They claimed reduced maintenance expenses and potential for rental income. There would be no need for fertilizers and they claimed almost no environmental impact to the pond. They have also obtained a commitment of 3 million dollars from town citizens in support of this project in order to minimize expenses to the town. They were supported by Gale Associates (Civil Engineering), Green Toxicology and Shaw sports Turf.
3	Opponents of the project vehemently contested the lack of environmental impact citing the usage of crum rubber infill and other synthetic material that tend to get very hot in summer and cause ecological imbalances. PWD department cited a lack of resources to maintain the field. Given the proximity to town water source, they advised that permission would have to be sought from MassDEP for this project to proceed.
4	Susan Connors of MassDEP subsequently emailed the following: The Drinking Water Regulations prohibit any land use within a Zone I area that is not directly related to the provision of water. The existing field, if used only for passive recreation, can remain because it is in a natural state, but MassDEP would be hard pressed to allow any change to that.
5	Wendy Gendron provided the Water Quality and plant surveys report for 2018. Based on this report, another 6 foot drawdown will be planned this Fall.

Next Bare Hill Pond Committee meeting: Oct 24th 2018