

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 26 July 2021

Place: Online Zoom meeting

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

Members Absent: Pablo Carbonell, Morey Kraus (Alternate Member)

Others Present:

Ben Baron (Prospective Member), Rick Dickson

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:33 pm

Secretary's Report

Minutes for May 17, 2021 and June 21, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Account balance of \$28,000 reflects FY2022, with the June 2021 National Grid expense paid in July.

The unspent FY2021 funds of \$507 returned to the town. Additional Pond monitoring by Aquatic Restoration, LLC, to be conducted later in the summer and paid from FY2022. A pie chart was presented illustrating the spend summary breakdown by category and in order of expense: Analysis and testing, power, repairs (pump), and communications.

Committee Member Roles

Chair suggests a discussion of a succession plan for BHPWMC, with opportunities for members to assume specific roles to become more involved and responsible in committee leadership. Suggestions include vice chair, leadership on Conservation Commission, Pump Operation. Chair would continue to reach out to other town boards, etc. Motion moved and approved for Bruce and Peter to propose and recruit for roles and responsibilities.

Fall Drawdown Plan

Propose for consideration that we proceed with the drawdown this fall. Based on observations, high rainfall has resulted in a lot of turn over (including fresh spring-fed water). Growth of invasive weeds such as fanwort and milfoil likely due to partial drawdown resulting from pump failure. Turbid water due to tannins resulting from stormwater flow, and high water bringing in shoreline silt. Awaiting official report from Aquatic Restoration, LLC, and pending support for drawdown. Motion moved and approved to proceed with a request to the Conservation Commission of a drawdown for up to 6.5 feet for fall 2021.

Worcester Area Cyanobacteria Collaborative

We have been invited to join. The collaborative is a citizen scientist group working to better understand cyanobacteria in Worcester's lakes and ponds. They will provide testing and collect the data. Ben Baron to report.

Update for Bare Hill Woods

Bruce Leicher attended the Select Board meeting. Learned before the meeting that the proposal to use Bare Hill Woods for the pump track did not have a vote at the Park & Recreation Committee. The Select Board was asked to exercise its jurisdiction to assist the boards with coordinating, collaborating, and to find a more suitable location. Stu Sklar, chair of the Select Board, called a meeting and invited all the stakeholders. A conversation ensued regarding the use of town property, and proposal of alternative parcels of land. At a later Park & Recreation Committee it was unclear if there was support for the pump track, nor was there an agreement not to use the Bare Hill Woods. Agreed that town committees have a responsibility to take care of the fragile woods, habitats, and important role in the watershed to protect Bare Hill Pond which is a town resource and asset.

Water Chestnuts

Rick Dickson joined the meeting to report on the presence of water chestnuts and pulling efforts. Reported 12 hours spent in June (4) and July (8). Groupings found in Great South Bay, 80% within picking distance of a dock. Re-visiting Great South Bay and Clapps Brook every two weeks. Finding and pulling a handful of small plants which are time consuming to find. Buoys used to mark areas for observation. Thanked for his persistence and efforts.

Kerry Shrives/Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

Next Meeting: August 23, 2021