

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 23 August 2021

Place: Online Zoom meeting

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Kerry Shrives, Pablo Carbonell, Peter Von Loesecke, Brian McClain, Ben Baron

Members Absent: Megan Glew, Morey Kraus (Alternate Member)

Others Present:

Staci Donahue, Liz Allard, Rick Dickson, Valerie Hurley, Joe Pettirossi, Becky Macknight, Michael and Barbara Griesbach

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:34 pm

Secretary's Report

Minutes for July 26, 2021, approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Two National Grid invoices for FY2022 paid.

Planning Board discussion on Stormwater Control article

Staci Donahue and Liz Allard presented background and information for the proposed erosion control bylaw, and asked for committee support. They stated that the current version more clearly defines what is required for major and minor permits, and is based on square footage, no longer requiring a complicated slope calculation. This is the 3rd time this bylaw has been proposed. Bylaw would not apply if permitting is needed from another board (ex. Board of Health, Conservation Commission), and hopes to capture projects that fall outside of the wetlands act. Chair provided and shared comments for consideration.

Update on Algal Testing Results from BOH and Drawdown

Community observations raised concerns about the current state of invasive weeds, algal bloom, effectiveness of draw-down, impact of chemical and physical debris from fireworks. Chair reminded that the drawdown was not successful this past winter because of pump failure. The pond refilled before the surface froze and invasive species were controlled. When successful, annual draw-downs have helped make the Pond more resilient, and have reduced the level of phosphorus in the water column by 50%. A community member suggested solutions such as treating water with copper sulfate, hydrogen peroxide, building a treatment plant, or dredging. Reminded that The Board of Health has the legal responsibility to provide testing for the pond and community to direct questions re: algae and toxicity to the Board of Health. Pending data from ongoing monitoring and testing by wetlands consultant.

Discussion of Activities and Committee Member Roles

Brief discussion, agreed to defer to the September meeting.

Collaboration with Other Boards

Goals shared for the September All Boards Meeting.

Worcester Cyanobacteria Collective

Ben Baron to inquire about membership.

Update on Bare Hill Woods

The Select Board chair met with committees to prepare a process for site plan review. Proponents of the Pump Track were positive on some of the alternative sites.

9:11pm meeting ended

Next Meeting: Sept. 27, 2021