

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 24 February 2014

Place: Hildreth House

Present

Members: Bruce Leicher (chair), Tom Gormley, Megan Glew, Brian McClain, Paul Wood, Ben Roop (student member)

Mr. Leicher opened the meeting at 7:35pm with a quorum.

Secretary's Report

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the prior 2 meetings (November and January). A motion to approve the minutes was unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report

No changes since the last meeting.

Master Plan Committee

Didi Chadran, a Master Plan Committee member, discussed the 10-year plan for land use that reflects the needs and the will of the community. It is a bottom-up process that will include many round tables on various topics. He then discussed Section 8 of Open Space and Recreation Plan. Is our committee comfortable with the resources and authority that we have? Mr. Leicher responded that the Pond Committee provides input on watershed-related activities, but has no authority to enforce anything. The Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board Association have the authority. It was pointed out that sometimes the Conservation Commission makes decisions that are not based on science which has been frustrating. Mr. Chadran presented the five different focus areas that are raised with each committee in town for future projects in order to receive input and better understand the committee's role as a steward. The five focus areas are Devens, Ayer Road commercial district, Housing, Town Center, and Conservation. It was pointed out that funding levels for the Pond Committee are potentially affected to the extent that funding is provided for these issues. With regard to housing, it is critical that people follow the Wetlands Protection Act and Bylaws.

Notice of Intent for Draw Down

Ms. Glew circulated a draft strategy for the NOI and requested comments from the committee members by March 10. Ms. Glew will meet with Liz Allard to discuss the NOI process.

Boat Trailer Parking Update

The Conservation Commission rejected the proposed boat trailer parking plan so Parks and Recreation Committee revised the plan and submitted it for 4 spots.

Calendar Planning

Mr. Leicher received input from members and will edit the calendar.

Frog Counts

Don Soja will continue to work on frog counts this year. Mr. Gormley raised the question of whether there would be a way to improve the methodology for frog counts. Mr. McClain recommended the use of wildlife technology and will look into it for collecting recordings. Mr. Gormley suggested that there be more flexibility with timing in collecting data; maybe form teams and plan for a one-week period of collection as opposed to one day.

The meeting was adjourned by a proper motion at 8:45pm.

Megan A. Glew

Secretary

Documents Reviewed at Meeting:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Draft strategy for Notice of Intent