

**Town of Sudbury  
Ponds and Waterways Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Sudbury Public Works Building Conference Room

**Present:** Susan Crane, Mark Ensign (Co-Chair), Paul Griffin, Ted Klein, and  
Joel Singer

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Co-chair Ensign called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m., and reviewed with the Ponds and Waterways Committee (PWC) the printed information provided by the Town Manager regarding; 1) the Open Meeting Law, and 2) the PWC Mission Statement. Co-chair Ensign indicated that the goal of the meeting is to have an open dialogue in which we share our experiences in Town, and our vision of how the PWC can serve the interests of the community.

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A general discussion ensued regarding the “vision” for the future of the PWC, resulting in four broad categories that will be addressed in the next several years:

1. Pond Rehabilitation
  2. Promoting Recreation
  3. Enhancing Biodiversity and Native Species
  4. Public Education
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Co-chair Ensign reviewed the deliverables that are called for in the Mission Statement:

1. “The first work project of the Ponds and Waterway Committee shall be to identify similar ponds and waterway groups in other towns in Massachusetts (or elsewhere if applicable), and summarize and evaluate their mission, makeup, relationship to other Town boards and commissions, success rate, challenging issues, etc. This shall be a report to the Board of Selectmen, due within three months of the creation of the PWC.”
  2. “The Ponds and Waterways Committee shall be responsible for... development of a Ponds and Waterways Master Plan.”
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Mr. Klein described his efforts to inventory and catalog the existing ponds and waterways within Sudbury. Mr. Klein is using a Mass GIS map to tentatively identify ponds and waterways and develop a draft spreadsheet (copy attached) describing attributes of the water bodies observed on the map. Mr. Klein requested input regarding descriptive attributes and help in filling in the spreadsheet. Mr. Ensign will forward a copy of the spreadsheet to the Town Conservation Coordinator for input.

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Mr. Singer raised the issue of whether the PWC should start discussions about various warrant articles that may be brought to Town Meeting, as the deadline for submission of articles is fast approaching. In particular, past articles have included harvesting of noxious aquatic weeds at Carding Mill Pond, and a biological study of Carding Mill Pond.

The PWC agreed that it would be premature to address potential articles as the Community Preservation Committee will vet these issues for now. Future meetings will likely address these and other issues; however, the first goal and the attention of the PWC will be the submittal of a report to the Selectmen regarding similar Committees in other Towns. Ms. Crane related her experience with conservation entities and indicated that she would research this topic and distribute some information.

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The PWC discussed whether a questionnaire should be sent out to Town residents to solicit input. Reflecting on the mixed success of the Rail Trail Committee, the PWC identified the Town website as a good place to start gathering feedback from the community. Future meetings will likely discuss questions that could be posted on the website, and ultimately the PWC expects to hold forums on important issues.

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Mr. Singer shared an email he had sent to the Town Manager following his interview for a position on the PWC. The email provided several examples of ways to promote recreation at Sudbury ponds and waterways, as well as documentation of the degradation of the ponds. Mr. Griffin indicated that it was difficult to encourage recreation. In his experience, it works well to provide nice recreation areas and people will naturally gravitate to them. The PWC agreed that by cleaning up the Town's ponds, recreation would likely follow.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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*Meeting minutes prepared by Mark Ensign, and adopted by a vote of the PWC on October 19, 2005.*

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