

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SUDBURY PONDS AND WATERWAYS COMMITTEE

Date: November 27, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Flynn Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Present: Susan Crane, David Blohm, Rich Davison, Mark Ensign, Michael Fee and Ted Klein

Absent: Joel Singer

Guests: Mark Blohm, Frank Lyons

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2006.

The Committee welcomed Mark Blohm, who has been hired as an intern, utilizing grant funds provided by the River Stewardship Council, to assist in developing the Town's GIS database and user interface capabilities. Mark Blohm will work closely with Mark Ensign and Mark Thompson to assess the Town's GIS capabilities, and enhance its utility with respect to ponds and waterways issues. The project will begin with a base GIS map of the town, and import layers of information from existing sources, which should include, at minimum: (i) photographic layers; (ii) locations of rivers, streams and ponds; (iii) wetland locations; (iv) location of open and protected recreational space; (v) location of all water/acquifer protection districts; and (vi) _____.

After the basic model is constructed, the Committee will look to Mark Blohm for formulating strategies regarding what other data fields, user interfaces or municipal needs

could be integrated into, or served by, the system. For example, the function of the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and ZBA could be enhanced by data layers enabling users to focus on particular parcels and access information regarding building permits, notices of intent, orders of conditions, conservation restrictions, easements, well locations, etc. Mark Ensign noted that the Town of Concord currently has in place a basic GIS system which is accessible to the public via the internet that could serve as a starting model for Mark Blohm's initial design work.

The Committee welcomed Frank Lyons, President of the Hop Brook Protection Association ("HBPA"), to discuss the most recent permitting developments regarding the Marlborough Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plan ("MEWTP"). Mr. Lyons described the permit as a truly significant development in what has been a sixteen year battle with Marlborough, EPA and DEP to regulate the phosphorous effluent discharge from MEWTP into the Hop Brook system.

The Committee discussed the salient terms of the permit. In essence, the permit contains a 6.5 year implementation schedule for reducing phosphorous discharge to .1mg/liter during the summer months. There is also a requirement that Marlborough ensure that downstream ponds in the Hop Brook system conform to water quality standards as defined by the Federal Clean Water Act. As a result, at minimum, implementation of remedial measures will likely be required in Hagar, Grist Mill, Stearns Mill and Carding Mill Ponds. The process and procedures implemented to accomplish this requirement will likely be the subject of much negotiation and debate over the next several years.

A near term “checkpoint” will be in April 2007 when the Army Corp of Engineers is scheduled to make public the results of its study regarding the advisability of removing man-made dams that form ponds in the Hop Brook system as a method of improving water quality, as well as evaluating other remedial measures, such as dredging. The Committee agreed that more information was necessary, but at first blush, from historic, habitat, aesthetic and recreational perspectives, removing dams does not appear to be a method that the Committee supports.

Mr. Lyons and the Committee discussed the various methods Marlborough might utilize to reduce the MEWTP’s phosphorus output to .1 mg/liter. Marlborough has hired a consulting engineer and has studied Concord’s processes which include hydromagnetic photo remediation (sp?) which has proven effective in other contexts.

Mr. Lyons and the Committee discussed ways in which the HBPA, the PWC, the Conservation Commission, and the Town’s Technical Advisory Committee might work together toward common goals. One of the immediate tasks will be to attempt to develop a joint remediation plan for Carding Mill and Grist Mill Ponds. The available alternatives include chemical treatments, dredging and alum. Any approach would involve an extended permitting process and so it makes sense to begin evaluating options and forming consensus on action plans as soon as possible.

The Committee reviewed and approved the text of an email message to be sent to residents who visited the PWC booth at Sudbury Day.

Susan Crane agreed to update the annual report and submit it to Rosemary Harvell.

Susan Crane agreed to revise her summary analysis of the MEWTP permit, and the Committee agreed that it should be posted on the PWC's web site, with an appropriate disclaimer indicating that it represented the interpretation of one member of the Committee, and did not necessarily represent the views of the PWC as a whole, or the Town.

The Committee agreed to get final comments to Michael Fee within the next several weeks on the PWC's draft "First Report to the Selectmen" so that the document can be finalized and submitted to the BOS by the end of the year.

The Committee chose meeting dates of December 18, January 29 and February 26, 2007. All meetings will take place at the Flynn Building, Second Floor conference room commencing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

The members of the PWC are:

Susan Crane, Chair	sjc@susancrane.com
David Blohm, Vice Chair	dblohm@blohmgroup.com
Rick Davison	davisonrh@aol.com
Mark Ensign	mension@geiconsultants.com
Michael Fee	mfee@feelaw.com
Ted Klein	tedklein@earthlink.net
Joel Singer	joel.singer@comcast.net

They may also be reached at pwc@town.sudbury.ma.us.