

**DRAFT Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2008, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Attendees: Susan J. Crane, Alan Bascom, Michael Dufault, Paul Greenspan,  
Robert Hershfield, Frank Lyons, Mary Addonizio**

**Administrative**

Reviewed and approved minutes (11/13/08)

A sheet was circulated for Annual Report signatures.

**Membership – liaison members (Con Com, Alan Bascom)**

On December 12, 2008, Alan attended the Con Com committee meeting and introduced the PWC to Con Com members. He stated that the PWC advises the Sudbury Selectmen and provides information, education, and recreation about the town's ponds and waterways. He also showed members the topo map, which they liked very much. Deb Dineen reiterated that she would like a laminated version of the map. Alan mentioned that the Con Com has two vacancies. He plans to attend the meetings once per quarter.

Susan Crane suggested emailing the PWC agendas and meeting minutes to Deb Dineen at the Con Com as a good way for the two committees to exchange ideas. Alan Bascom will ask Deb Dineen.

Ted Klein and Mike Dufault may also want to run that by the other committee meetings they attend.

PWC does not currently post agendas or minutes to the web site. It is not that critical because PWC does not hold public hearings.

**Projects**

**River Stewardship Council (RSC) Small Grants Award – lawn signs (Rob Hershfield and Mike Dufault)**

Eco Friendly Lawn Sign Deployment

Sign posting confirmation dates at the fire stations on Routes 20 and 117 are below:  
3/08/2009-3/14/2009 and 9/13/2009-9/19/2009.

Before posting the signs at the two fire stations, PWC may work with some local commercial merchants (e.g., Russell's) to post the signs outside their nurseries. If PWC pursues this, it will inform the Town Manager and the RSC.

The bill board backing will be plywood on sheet rock. The signs will be double-sided. The committee talked about final wording of the signs. The PWC wants to ensure program compliance, but not make it so difficult that people cannot comply with the organic lawn treatment directives. For example, at the meeting on November 13, it was suggested that insoluble phosphorus be listed as a fertilizer. At this meeting, however, there was some debate on whether to include phosphorus. Committee members raised questions about whether or not a "no phosphorus" stance may preclude participation in

the program. Also, what if residents cannot comply with all of the elements in the program?

Committee members felt that many of these issues can be addressed through further research into what constitutes good organic fertilizers, including looking into inorganic and organic phosphorus, percent phosphorus, and appropriate sign wording. Frank Lyons suggested looking at Mike Murray's website: <http://www.organicsoilsolutions.com>. Mr. Murray has presented seminars about organic lawn care.

There was also a question about the proper spelling of phosphorus (This is the Oxford English Dictionary spelling).

Susan stated that the bill board should plant the concept of the program with more information about the Eco Friendly program detailed on the PWC web site. All information in the different media will be consistent.

**Outreach to schools and laminated map reproduction costs. Report to Sudbury Foundation.**

Susan stated that if the schools cannot provide the \$100.00 for map lamination, the door is still open for PWC to ask the Sudbury Foundation for the money. Initially, when Dave Blohm and Paul Greenspan met with the science curriculum coordinator and teachers, the school folks mentioned that the schools could laminate the maps. However, the maps were too big, so Dave had them laminated and dropped them off at the schools. Susan suggested that Dave and Paul ask the schools if they can pay for the laminations. For example, the Sudbury Education Resource Foundation (SERF) may be a source of funding.

Susan thanked those PWC members who offered to subsidize the map laminations, but she felt that volunteering time is sufficient.

Paul reported that he and Dave will meet with two different sixth grade science classes at the Curtis Middle School (about 40 kids) on 12/22/09. The students are currently studying water sheds. Paul and Dave will discuss what the PWC does, including the Eco Friendly Lawn Program. Other possible areas of interest include information from the Mass. Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) post-cards that Susan passed out to PWC attendees at the last meeting. The post-cards, obtained from the last COLAP conference, address several different types of pollution like storm water run-off and dog poop.

Susan will give Paul post-cards for the students. PWC members suggested that the students can form small groups and use the cards to discuss how different types of pollution impact the Sudbury ecosystems.

Another source of relevant information is the web site: [www.stormwatermatters.org](http://www.stormwatermatters.org). Frank Lyons mentioned that the COLAP 22nd Lake and Pond Management Workshop will be held on January 24, 2009.

Frank suggested contacting Bill Place of the DPW, who is a good resource for information. For example, Mr. Place knows where storm water in Sudbury drains (exits). Frank believes that there are some storm drains on Route 20.

Nancy Bryant of the Watershed Council is another source of information about storm water management around Massachusetts. She works at SUASCO Watershed Community Council in Stow, MA.

Rob Hershfield reported that he and Steve Gaebler (Gabe) published all of the Q&A's that the committee suggested. He also got some answers at the stormwatermatters.org website. There are links to relevant articles and the Q&A's on the PWC web site.

**Organic Lawn Signs:**

Mike reported that PWC had an initial contract for \$504.00 for the resident lawn signs. The contract is from April 2008, with Signorama, which is under new management. The current Signorama manager drew up a new contract that is \$200.00 higher. Susan will follow up with the new manager to ask him to honor the original contract. Mike will talk to Bill Place of the DPW about sign storage.

**Publicity: Town Crier Article on Winter Ponds:**

Susan mentioned that Nancy Hershfield plans to write the winter ponds article in January 2009.

**Hop Brook Pond remediation (Frank)**

Frank mentioned that the COLAP workshop on January 24, 2009 will have a panel that discusses Beaver issues. Frank also discussed some of the issues his neighborhood has had with a local beaver lodge and the potential danger of having some big pine trees, which have been chewed and weakened by beavers, falling on Route 20.

**Master Plan:**

Rob, Dave, and Gabe will meet to work on the master plan. Rob received a condensed version of the Sudbury Valley Trustee's Master Plan Summary and likes its format.

**Grist Mill Pond:**

Frank spoke with the new manager of the Wayside Inn about ensuring that the pond does not get too low in winter. The pond cannot be lowered without permission from the Con Com. Frank mentioned that boards can be put in the canal and that the water level can be managed by opening up the sluice at the bottom of the canal.

**Pond Remediation:**

Frank talked about Aqua Cleaner, technology that can suck pond weeds and is fairly low cost. This technology will be discussed at the January COLAP meeting. Weeds are sucked into bags on barges. Divers with breathing apparatus direct the vacuum suction. Frank has questions about how many square feet the Aqua Cleaner can treat in an hour; how water is released; how sediment is contained, and how quickly it can operate.

Frank is also planning to publish another Water Wisdom article.

**First Quarter 2009 Meeting Dates:**

January 26, 2009

February 23, 2009

March 30, 2009

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm