

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee
February 7, 2008

Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Present: Dave Blohm, Susan Crane, Mike Dufault, Rob Hershfield, Ted Klein, Michael Fee, Frank Lyons

Absent: Ted Pickering

Membership: Ted Pickering has resigned.

Nancy Hershfield is interested in becoming an associate member. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously that Nancy Hershfield be appointed as an associate member of the Committee. Rob Hershfield abstained from the vote.

Susan Crane reported that Ethan Jessup, a recent Conservation Commission appointee, may be interested in joining the Committee.

Michael Fee reported that Douglas Lippincott, Tanbark Road, is also interested. Susan Crane and Michael Fee agreed to follow up with these individuals.

Publicity: Susan Crane reported that Nancy Hershfield is planning to write a semi-regular column for the Town Crier. Dave Blohm agreed to contribute photographs for the articles. The Committee discussed possible topics for future articles,

including: (i) excessive water use and tips for conservation; (ii) lawn care, fertilizer use and the impact to ponds; (iii) significance of wetlands and invasive plants; (iv) buffer zones in winter; (v) stories on habitat through the seasons; (vi) recreational uses through the seasons; (vii) invasives, harvesting and harvesters.

Legislative Update: Frank Lyons reported on his discussions with Representative Tom Conroy, Libby Herland (US Fish & Wildlife) and Tony Moores (Wayland) regarding potential State efforts to purchase a harvester to use in common with Lincoln and Wayland. Hop Brook Protection Association has been overseeing the harvesting of Carding Mill Pond for the past 5-6 years, using a borrowed Fish & Wildlife Department harvester.

For a variety of reasons, the purchase of a harvester does not appear to be a fiscally appropriate course. Currently, Hop Brook Protection Association, with the assistance of limited CPA funds, harvests Carding Mill Pond for approximately \$5,000.00/year. The ongoing costs associated with maintaining a 1/3 interest in a harvester would far exceed that amount, and would include ongoing expenditures for maintenance, insurance, housing and labor costs, which the Committee estimates may be in excess of \$20,000.00 annually.

Currently Sudbury shares the F&W harvester with Lincoln and Concord. Rep. Conroy's suggestion is to have a newly acquired harvester be shared with Wayland and Lincoln. Wayland's ponds are in horrible shape and the likely result

would be that Wayland would be an inordinate user. In addition, harvesting should not be a long-term plan. It is an interim solution while the Town considers remediation options.

On February 26, 2008 Frank Lyons will meet with Fish & Wildlife to discuss plans for use of the harvester this year to address Carding Mill.

Susan Crane reported that there will be public forum on February 13, 7:00-9:30 at Russells Garden Center in Wayland. The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection is currently conducting a study on sediment remediation through dredging and/or dam removal on the Assabet River and Hop Brook. The study has sparked much dialogue and controversy about the pros and cons of the dam removal.

Other Communities/Developments:

Peabody: The Committee discussed a recent study entitled “Biological Process for Freshwater Sediment Degradation” performed on Crystal Lake in Peabody, Massachusetts. The Committee will review the study..

Webster Fertilizer By-Law: Webster recently attempted to enact a by-law to limit use of phosphorous-containing fertilizer in that Town. The Mass. Attorney General determined that the proposed by-law was not narrowly tailored enough to comply with state laws protecting commerce and agriculture. Frank Lyons spoke with the Webster proponents and they intend to revisit the by-law language and

resubmit it to the AG's office in the future. The Committee agreed to monitor the developments for potential future Town Meeting proposals in Sudbury.

Projects: Susan Crane reported on the status of her proposal to Sudbury Foundation for funding of map project. David Blohm has created an engaging new design. Susan will revise the grant application and submit it shortly, via the Town Manager.

Riverfest: The Sixth Annual celebration of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers, sponsored by the River Stewardship Council will take place on June 14 and 15, 2008. The Committee discussed last year's activities of a kayak trip on Willis and a fishing derby at Josephine's Pond (W5) at the Wayside Inn. Ted Klein made it clear that his son, Jacob, won the derby. Proposals are due by March 24. After some spirited discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor, jointly with the Hop Brook Protection Association, a rubber ducky race. Mike Dufault and Frank Lyons agreed to coordinate. Susan Crane will make the proposal to the Riverfest sponsors.

Master Plan: Dave Blohm and Rob Hershfield recently met to discuss developments and strategies for completing the document. They have identified the tasks necessary for finalizing the project and will be assigning them shortly. Mike Dufault agreed to take on the Great Meadows Watershed reporting responsibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meetings: March 13 and April 3.