

DRAFT Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2nd Floor

Attendees: Susan Crane, Chair; David Blohm; Michael Dufault; Steve (Gabe) Gabeler; Paul Greenspan; Robert Hershfield; Mary Addonizio

Administration

The minutes were reviewed and approved for the January meeting (01/26/2009). It was noted that Paula Feynman is the teacher at the Curtis Middle School.

Projects

Eco Friendly Lawn Participation and Publicity

The Eco Friendly Lawn program will be promoted by signage, the PWC web site, the Town Crier, cable television, word of mouth, Sudbury Day and the Fourth of July parade.

Mike Dufault talked about actively getting support from other town committees and the Board of Selectmen to create demand for the program among Sudbury residents. He stated that Debbie Dineen is interested, and that the Park and Rec committee would be as well, since it has an integrated pest management program, and does not use pesticides in public areas where kids play.

He said that presenting an open letter signed by the Sudbury committees, the Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Board of Selectmen will further validate the lawn program. To compose the letter, he suggested stating the problems and steps to ameliorate them, along with the statement that PWC is seeking support and endorsements from these other committees and the Board. State that the town is already in compliance with the program. Debbie Dineen told Mike that she would show the letter to the Con Com.

Mike will maintain the list of Eco Friendly Lawn applicants. He'll also ask them if they want their names published on a web site honor roll. Mike will dispense the signs to participants. He'll either drop them off at people's homes, or people can pick them up at his home.

Rob Hershfield stated that PWC members and other Eco lawn Friendly participants may want to strongly encourage their own lawn services to develop organic treatments.

Mary Addonizio will write a short (~ 250 words) press release for the program. Susan Crane will contact Carole Lamond, a reporter for the Town Crier, to do an article once the PWC creates an angle for a story for the Eco Friendly Lawn Program. Ms. Lamond has previously written about the topo map.

Action Unlimited will place an advertisement (~ 250 words) about the program, which can be placed near separate ads by companies like Russell's and Mahoney's.

Program information will also be put on the town's web site and Channel 8. The TV station will run pictures and a message. The message will be a 15-second loop played throughout the day and can run for six months. Mike will ask Frank Lyons for some relevant pictures for the channel message.

The large Eco Friendly Lawn signs will be at the fire stations before Sudbury Day.

The eco friendly lawn criteria have been defined, and Rob has posted program compliance information on the PWC web site. The information will also be printed to distribute to interested Sudbury Day participants. Rob also posted the information from last year's seminar on organic lawn care.

Gabe (Steve Gabeler) and Dave Blohm will visit the First Parish Church, Congregation B'Nai Torah, and Congregation Beth El to talk about potential project participation. Gabe also mentioned that the large sign (First Pulpit) in front of the First Parrish Church may be able to be used to promote the Eco Friendly Lawn program.

Mike stated that the sign design is complete. Sign printing is underway; sign dimensions are 18"x24." The original quote will be honored. The PWC web site address will be removed from the signs posted at the fire stations, since the address would be hard to read by drivers.

Sudbury Foundation Report

Susan will report to the Sudbury Foundation and give the foundation a copy of the topo map.

Adopt A Pond Program

Dave drafted the Adopt A Pond framework. He will also write an introduction for the Curtis Middle School project for Ms. Feynman's class.

PWC members reviewed the framework, made a few edits, and took out references to ground water. Though the framework largely addresses public surface waterways, some ponds on private property may be available for adoption if the owners permit it.

Other ideas discussed to create demand for the program include the following:

- Get a small number of individuals or groups to adopt a pond, and then write an article about their work, and invite more volunteers to join the program.
- Ask volunteers to develop their own goals and timelines.
- Create simple protocols for water testing consistency.
- Create a pamphlet detailing the above mentioned protocols.
- List reliable kits for volunteers to purchase for water testing.
- Create a place on the website for volunteers to report data and blog about their work.
- Create a matrix of biological and water quality data for the different water bodies.

PWC will also look into River Stewardship funds to purchase kits and a log. That funding is on an annual cycle, but it is uncertain whether the small grants program for municipalities will be continued this year. Susan will inquire.

Topo Laminated Map Reproduction

Dave Blohm will get some print paper and will do the lay-out and framing for the maps. Gabe suggested that Dave look into Costco for printing, since the cost may be fairly reasonable.

Rob created a poster made from copies of the thank you cards sent by Paula Feynman's class for Sudbury Day at the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School on April 4, 2009. The cards will also be put on the PWC web site.

Master Plan

Rob, Dave, and Gabe met the week of 2/5/09 to work on the Master Plan. The Master Plan's body is 14 pages. The plan also includes three detailed appendices. The body of the plan will be circulated for review. Mary will review the content for consistency. We want to turn the document around by 03/09/09.

Sudbury Day Festival

The festival is April 4th from noon to 5:00 pm, in the Sudbury Lincoln Regional High School cafeteria.

- Dave will contact Kim Schimmoller with a lay-out of the space PWC will need.
- PWC will have a 6 foot table.
- We will also request an inside wall and access to power.
- We want the table farthest away from the windows to project images approximately 8 feet from the screen, which will be against a wall.
- Dave will bring easels and a framed topo map.
- Mike will bring a sign for the Eco Friendly Lawn Program.
- Rob will bring a laptop, speakers, and a projector.
- Paul will bring folding chairs.
- Gabe will provide a screen, power cords, a sound CD, and power strips.
- Most committee members will be able to attend part of the festival. Times will be worked out at the next meeting.

Riverfest

- Riverfest will be on June 6&7.
- PWC will ask Frank about co-sponsorship with the Hop Brook Association.
- PWC plans to do the Duck race and will ask Ted Klein if he will wear a duck suit.
- Susan will report to the RSC on our plans and provide a write-up for the Riverfest brochure, if it's a go.

Future of PWC Efforts

Mike raised the question of what projects the PWC is pursuing in the coming year(s). He suggested that PWC build on activities like the Duck Race, Adopt A Pond, the Eco-Friendly Lawn program, and other education programs. He would also like to coordinate with neighboring towns to use the waterways recreationally for kayaking, races, fishing, and friendly competitions.

Web site Updates

Web site updates include the Eco-friendly Lawn Program, re-displaying last year's Eco-friendly Lawn article and posting some of the Watershed Inventories of Water Bodies. Rob contacted Mark Thompson to find out how to display a photo gallery of last year's duck race and the previous year's fishing derby. Rob will need to coordinate with Mark to accomplish this as it must be done on the town's computer network.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, March 30, 2009

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm