

DRAFT Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2nd Floor

Attendees: Alan Bascom, David Blohm, Michael Dufault, Steve Gaebler (Gabe), Paul Greenspan, Robert Hershfield, Ted Klein, Mary Addonizio

Administrative

Reviewed and approved December meeting minutes (01/26/2009)

The signature sheet was circulated for the remaining Annual Report signatures.

Projects

**River Stewardship Council (RSC) Small Grants Award – Eco Friendly Lawn signs
Eco Friendly Lawn Sign Deployment**

Sign posting confirmation dates at the fire stations are 3/08/2009-3/14/2009 and 9/13/2009-9/19/2009.

Town officials contacted Mike Dufault to let him know that the League of Women Voters would like to use the signs during the same spring period. Thus, the Eco Friendly Lawn signs for the spring dates will be one sided only.

- Mike will let the fire stations know that PWC will use the east bound side of the sign for Route 117 and the west bound side of the sign for Route 20.

Mike also stated that he may want to experiment with the font for the co-sponsor information to make sure that the information can be read easily. He would also like to use the wording from Mass. Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) conference post-cards.

Eco Friendly Lawn Participation and Publicity

- Gabe and Dave will visit the First Parish Church and Congregation B’Nai Torah and Congregation Beth El to talk about potential project participation.
- Mike will visit the fire stations.

PWC members discussed ways for the Town to participate in the program and suggested that we get Debbie Dineen on board.

Bill Place or the Town Treasurer would likely have contact for information about the town’s lawn service contractor. PWC may want to anticipate what questions the town selectman and others may have about the program and its costs. Mike and Gabe mentioned that the criteria have been made less stringent.

- Nancy and Rob Hershfield will work on an article for the newspaper.
- Rob will put information on the PWC web site.

Program information can also be put on the town’s web site and channel 8.

The town selectmen could make a statement about the program.

- PWC can create a concise statement of objectives about the program that Susan Crane can review.

PWC members also discussed how local lawn centers may be able to promote organic lawn care by advertising or contributing articles to the newspaper when the program roll-out begins.

PWC members will continue to discuss responsibilities and roll-out dates for various aspects of the program.

Laminated Map Reproduction Costs

The Con Com paid for laminating the maps. Debbie Dineen received a map. Paul in Engineering has printed 10 more maps. Debbie and Tom Arnold also contributed photos for the maps. Dave Blohm will get some print paper and will do the lay-out and framing.

Outreach to Schools

Dave and Paul Greenspan met with two of Paula Fineman's sixth grade science classes at the Curtis Middle School (about 40 kids) on 12/22/09. The students are studying about watersheds. They really liked the topo map, and were surprised by the number of ponds in Sudbury and how different types of pollution can have a negative impact on waterways.

During the visit, Paul and Dave introduced the PWC and described some of the committee's projects including the Eco Friendly Lawn Program. Students also interacted with the topo map, and played a form of Bingo using wild life pictures from Sudbury that one would find in local wetlands. Students formed small groups and used the COLAP conference post-cards, which address several different types of pollution like storm water run-off and dog poop, to discuss how different types of pollution impact the Sudbury ecosystems, and what can be done to remediate the ponds. The students sent Dave and Paul very nice thank you notes with original artwork.

PWC will use the cards creatively in a poster for Sudbury Day at the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School. (Discussed below) The cards will also be put on the PWC web site.

Paula Fineman will work with the PWC as a first mover in the Adopt A Pond program, as well as other educational programs. She may help to develop a curriculum with the PWC. She is interested in adopting Kettle Pond, which is behind the Curtis Middle School.

Adopt A Pond

- Dave will write up a brief framework outlining the Adopt A Pond program
- Dave will also write an introduction for the school project.

Other ideas that were discussed include the following:

Developing a set of program criteria,

Creating an informative email for people interested in Adopting a Pond,

Identifying and addressing potential legal/liability issues,

(If the program is done on private property by a non-owner, the owner's permission must be granted, and PWC will have to be careful of liability.)

Getting the town to give PWC a waiver for any issues identified above,

Having more than one person/group adopt a pond, and encouraging them to work together,

Gabe mentioned that the education part should address conceptual, as well as economic issues. For example, if we address an invasive species now, we may be able to save the town money for remediation in the future.

PWC will also need curricula and training pertaining to water quality, invasive species identification, and remediation.

Dave suggested that one thing to explore is to have a program where volunteers can track a pond by assessing it each season.

PWC will have information on the web site about the program and perhaps the adopters can blog about their activities.

Mike showed PWC members a 50-page report titled, "Effects of Phosphorus Contamination on Species Diversity in Hop Brook," written by Ed Cavallerano, a LSRHS student. Ed studied and documented several aspects of the health of Hop Brook by evaluating its phosphate levels, detecting other pollutants, and cataloging local flora and fauna. A program based on his report could be used as a template for the Adopt a Pond program, though it would not have to be as detailed a study.

Publicity

Rob Hershfield stated that the Town Crier Article on Winter Ponds may not be feasible at this time. There is a lack of direction as to how to frame the article properly.

Master Plan

- Rob, Dave, and Gabe will meet the week of 2/5/09 from 8:30 am to 11 am to work on the master plan.

Rob likes the condensed version of the Sudbury Valley Trustee's Master Plan Summary. Gabe likes the Park and Recreation master Plan. They will review that plan, as well as the Conservation Commission Master Plan.

Weir Hill Meeting Group

Gabe stated that the Weir Hill Meeting Group is trying to coordinate activities within the Sudbury Assabet Watershed dealing with invasives. The pdf file was sent to PWC members. PWC will review it and declare its support for the activities. Gabe stated that some activities include sharing the water chestnut harvester, sharing ideas on to recognize invasive species, and organizing volunteer efforts for early defensive harvesting

The PWC response for support will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sudbury Day Festival

The festival is April 4th at Sudbury Lincoln Regional High School.

PWC will have a 6 foot table.

Mike volunteered to attend. Mary Addonizio can attend for part of the festival. Gabe is also planning to be there for a while.

Dave will prepare a framed topo map.

It was suggested that an interactive map be made available on a laptop for attendees.

Signs for the Eco Friendly Lawn Program will be represented, and information about the program will be available. The website will also be referenced for more in depth information.

For the PWC festival poster, the thank you notes from the Curtis Middle School students will be scanned and printed to form the letters: "PWC" and pasted to a black poster board.

- Gabe will scan the front pages of the notes and send the pdf file to Rob.
- Rob will print, cut, and put the notes on black poster board. An easel or velcro backing will be used to hold the board.

Gabe has a CD with sound effects for the festival.

Gabe will create a shorter version of the PWC mission statement as a take away for attendees.

Potential items for the Festival include the following:

1. Sign up sheet for names and emails
2. PWC Web site contact
3. Eco Friendly Lawn sign
4. Topo Map
5. Black and white map from last year? (May not need because of the topo map)
6. Business card with topo map logo (Maybe)
7. Magnets (Maybe)
8. Short questionnaire (Maybe)

Promotional plan for the lawn

Robert and Nancy Hershfield will write an article. Rob will put the information on the web page. The issue was raised to put the information on Channel 8.

Future of PWC Efforts

Mike raised the question of what projects the PWC is pursuing in the coming year. For example, PWC can build upon prior activities like the Duck Race, as well as new programs like Adopt A Pond, Eco-Friendly Lawn and other education programs. Ted Klein also raised the point that PWC projects can be placed in two categories:

Strategic: (Topo Map, Master Plan, web site, Q&A), and

Annual: (Duck Race, Adopt A Pond, Eco-Friendly Lawn).

PWC members also stated that the committee may want to look at more recreational projects and can look into coordinating with Parks and Recreation on projects.

PWC members also talked about developing a short survey instrument to find out what Sudbury residents are interested in pursuing.

Updates

The Web site updates are done.

The Q&A section is also up to date.

First Quarter 2009 Meeting Dates

Monday, February 23, 2009

Monday, March 30, 2009

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm