

DRAFT Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2nd Floor

Attendees: Susan Crane, Chair; Alan Bascom; David Blohm; Michael Dufault; Steve (Gabe) Gabeler; Robert Hershfield; Ted Klein; Mary Addonizio

Administration

The February meeting minutes (02/23/2009) were reviewed and approved. Going forward, meeting minutes will be posted on the town's web site.

The following members' terms are up at the end of April: David Blohm, Mary Addonizio, and Steve Gabeler. All expressed an interest in continuing on the PWC. Susan Crane will send their names to the Sudbury Board of Selectmen for reappointment.

Storm Water By-Law

Gabe mentioned that the Planning Board's proposed storm water by-law is in the Town Warrant, which identifies supporting committees other than the PWC. Susan told Mike Fee, planning board chair, that PWC members voted unanimously in favor of the by-law, but that our approval did not get into the Town Warrant. The Planning Board will be inviting a PWC representative to speak at town meeting in support of the by-law.

NDPES Permit Schedule Implementation

Susan also discussed the letter that Frank Lyons received from the Environmental Protection Agency in response to his letter expressing concern about the delay in the NDPES permit schedule for upgrading the Marlborough Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plan, which discharges into Hop Brook. She sent a copy of the letter Frank received to PWC members. The PWC greatly appreciates that Frank is on top of this issue.

Projects

Eco-Friendly Lawn Project Participation and Publicity

Mike Dufault is drafting a letter that will be signed by Sudbury town committees, local supporting organizations, and the Board of Selectmen to further validate the 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. The town is already in compliance with the program.

Mike is receiving requests daily for Eco-Friendly Lawn signs from Sudbury residents. He anticipates about 60 signs going to residents and about 10 going on town properties. Signs will begin going up on April 18. He feels that the spring demand bodes well for the fall program.

Rob Hershfield reported that the Earth Day flier did not contain the Eco Friendly lawn information.

Presentation to the Selectmen

Lee Steppacher, River Stewardship Council (RSC), is presenting the small grants check to the Selectmen on April 28th, after the Town Meeting. Susan suggested that PWC get on the Selectmen's calendar then to discuss the lawn project. Mike Dufault feels that the meeting is a great time to read the letter.

The lawn signs will be out from 4/18 - 5/31; Earth Day is 4/22.

Susan also wondered if we could save the discussion of the map project for our annual presentation to the Selectmen. By that time, the maps should be on display in schools and public buildings.

Presentation to the RSC

Susan followed up with Lee about presenting the Eco-Friendly Lawn project to the RSC. Lee thought it would be great to give PWC 10 to 15 minutes to discuss that project, as well as the map project to show how far limited funds can go for a community project.

- Lee is putting PWC on the agenda first thing for the next RSC meeting on 4/21 at 7 p.m. at Wolbach Farm in Sudbury (SVT headquarters). This is a public meeting.
- Mike stated that he would be happy to give an update about the Eco Friendly Lawn project to the RSC on April 21. Dave will present on the watershed map project.

Lee also requested that we find two adjacent lawns to photograph, one treated with chemicals and the other eco-friendly, with each displaying their representative signs.

Work Flow Report

Mike updated the work flow report for the Eco-Friendly Lawn Project. He'll give a copy to Susan and one to Alan Bascom to give to Debbie Dineen.

Channel 5

Mr. Brown at Channel 5 has not yet responded to Susan's responsive email to him about reporting on the Eco-Friendly Lawn Project. He stated in his inquiry email that he had done similar stories in the past. After the meeting, Susan will send him an email to let him know that the PWC is very pleased by the positive response of residents to the program and would welcome a Channel 5 story.

Ted Klein suggested that linking up with a Channel 5 sponsor can be an entrée into TV media.

First Parrish Church

Gabe mentioned that the First Parish Church can promote the Eco Friendly Lawn Project by putting a quote on its big sign. The quotes usually stay up for two weeks. Ted sent a link with relevant quotes to PWC members to review. Gabe likes this quote: "The frog

does not drink up the pond in which it lives." /Chinese Proverb. He feels that this quote fits the spirit of the "Wayside Pulpit" sign.

Sudbury Foundation Report

Susan will report to the Sudbury Foundation and give the Foundation a copy of the topo map. Alan Bascom suggested some additional detail to the report and will send the information to Susan this week of 3/30/09.

Alan also stated that the Conservation Commission will fund \$100.00 for the maps.

Adopt A Pond Program

Gabe suggested that we speak with Julia Blatt, environmental program coordinator for the Sudbury Foundation, who can offer advice about getting volunteers for the program based on her prior experience at OAR.

Mike is focusing on using chemistry strips for water testing. The kits will cost about \$20-25 each, have about eight different tests such as pH, nitrate, and nitrite levels, and are fairly accurate. The kits will contain enough strips to do one test per week for 10 weeks. Mike suggested putting the kits in tackle boxes, which cost about \$6-7 each. PWC will also supply a small printed instruction manual with the kits.

Dave Blohm mentioned that it will be good for each kid who participates in the program to have hands-on experience with the testing. The program can offer a way for town volunteers to assess the state of the waterways by getting some baseline data. By performing the tests over time, students can gather data to analyze the status of pond health, to see if eutrophication is occurring, and to check if chemicals are migrating. Scouts, for example can perform the tests over a period of years to track water quality. The kits would also be appropriate for adults.

PWC will also look into River Stewardship small grant funds to purchase the tests, kits, and a data log. That funding is on an annual cycle.

Topo Laminated Map Reproduction

Dave printed pictures for the maps. Picture credits for Tom Arnold, Debbie Dineen, and Dave will be listed on the bottom of the map. The maps will be ready by Sudbury Day on April 4. The picture printing cost was about \$120.00 for paper and ink. He also mentioned that the maps should have a written key/legend to help with the interpretation. Susan will ask the town if there is petty cash money available to reimburse Dave's costs.

Dave suggested that when the maps are rolled out, we invite the printer, the photographers, and Lee. (See above for the RSC meeting on 4/21 at 7 p.m. at Wolbach Farm in Sudbury.)

Master Plan

- The following date is scheduled to finish the Master Plan: 4/28/09 6:00 PM -9:00 PM. If it cannot be completed then, we have also scheduled a tentative meeting for **5/03/09 from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM .**

- Gabe accepted all of the comments made about the Master Plan draft. He then re-circulated it with a list of what needs to be done. Some list items can be addressed by members via email.

PWC members briefly discussed information about the Sudbury River. The issue with removing mercury contained in its sediment is complex, and is further complicated by the fact that it is a multi town river impacted by a federal Superfund site.

I missed the information about the potential threat to well sites near the Second Division Brook, which enters the Assabet River at the northwest corner of Sudbury.

Sudbury Day Festival

The festival is April 4th from 12 noon to 5:00 pm, in the Sudbury Lincoln Regional High School cafeteria.

- Susan contacted Kim Schmoller with a lay-out of the space PWC will need.
- 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 and ~ 50 Eco Friendly Lawn Program handouts, fishing pole, and a cardholder.
- Paul will bring folding chairs. Dave will also bring two chairs.
- Gabe will provide a screen, power cords, a sound CD, and power strips, and ~ 50 hand-outs, camera, and oars.
- Most committee members will be able to attend part of the festival.
- Mike will bring a few rubber duckies.
- There will be a few lanyards for the name tags that Dave handed out.

Susan does not have copies of the watershed maps made last year.

Festival April 4, Schedule 11:00-6:00

Set-up 11:00 AM: Gabe, Rob, and Dave

11-2:00 PM: Dave, Gabe

12 noon -6:00 PM: Mike

2:00 – 4:00 Susan

3:00 -6:00 PM: Mary

Paul Greenspan also plans to attend. At that last meeting, he mentioned that he would bring some chairs.

Riverfest: will be on June 6&7.

- PWC plans to do the Duck race. Ted will check to see if he is available to wear a duck suit. He'll check on the price of the costume at Cambridge Costumes.

Web site Updates

Rob Hershfield has posted more watershed inventory documents and photos on the site. He will post an overview of Sudbury Day.

Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, 4/28/09 6:00 PM -9:00 PM (Master Plan)
- Tuesday, 5/05/09 (tentative for Master Plan)
- Tuesday, 5/26/09
- Thursday, 6/18/09

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm