

## **Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes**

**May 26, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building**

**Attendees: Susan Crane; chair, Alan Bascom; David Blohm; Michael Dufault; Steve (Gabe) Gabeler; Paul Greenspan; Robert Hershfield; Frank Lyons; Mary Addonizio**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Approval of Meeting minutes for March 30, 2009 and May 05, 2009. Corrections were made and the corrected minutes will be sent to Rob Hershfield for posting.

### **Topo Maps**

Dave Blohm mentioned that getting the framed topo maps placed and hung is a two-person job. The maps are 50"x50".

The maps are to be placed in the Town Hall, Flynn Building, DPW Building, Goodnow Library, and the following schools: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Curtis, Haynes, Loring, Nixon, and Noyes. The only map distributed so far has been to the library, which has committed to hang it for six months.

Before schools are out for the year, the following PWC members will work with Dave at the schools: Paul Greenspan at Noyes and Curtis; Rob Hershfield at Nixon; Alan Bascom at Loring and Haynes.

Before the maps are given to the schools, Dave will contact Karen McCarthy, the science curriculum coordinator for K-8, and ask her to talk to the middle school principals about hanging and displaying the maps.

Paul Greenspan will call Constance Patten, science coordinator, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School.

Susan will contact Maureen Valente, Sudbury Town Manager, to request her help in coordinating placement of the maps in the Town Hall, Flynn Building and DPW Building.

In addition to the map, an 8.5 x11" interpretive sign will be created. It will mention who we are, why we created the map, and what can be gleaned from the map. The explanation will be followed by a series of questions, including asking the readers to locate their homes and watershed area. Susan Crane will draft the document and email it to members for comments.

**Presentation ceremony to the Town Hall:** PWC members mentioned that it would be nice to have a presentation ceremony, with recognition to those who contributed to the map's creation: the Sudbury Foundation, River Stewardship Council, Conservation Commission, DPW, photographers Tom Arnold, Debbie Dineen and David Blohm, the map framer, and Mark Blohm, the intern who compiled the data and created the data lawyers.

The possibility of creating topo posters for sale to the public will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Revolving Fund**

At John Drobinski's suggestion, Susan Crane contacted Maureen Valente about the possibility of setting up a revolving fund to hold money raised to meet PWC project expenses in a designated account. Maureen expressed concerns about the potential administrative burden on the town if the fund were to be used for donations from individuals; she apparently had contemplated the fund to hold money from perhaps one or two grants a year. She suggested that we consider forming a 501(c)(3) corporation; however, PWC members felt that would be too time consuming to set up and maintain with all of its reporting requirements. Susan will explore a town account further with Maureen.

### **Sudbury Day Festival**

Members were happy with the turnout to the PWC booth for the Sudbury Day Festival. Mike Dufault stated that 13 residents signed up for Eco Friendly Lawn signs and that 12 were placed. The 13<sup>th</sup> person was from a neighboring town. Mike referred the person to some relevant information sources on organic lawn care.

During the festival, Susan and Mike were interviewed for the local cable TV news: [www.Sudburytv.org](http://www.Sudburytv.org) has a link to the interview. Mike suggested that if it isn't too complicated, perhaps the link to the interview can be put on the website. (It may be, though.)

For next year, if it is around the same time, we may buy marshmallow peeps to give to the kids to remind people of the upcoming Annual Rubber Ducky Race, assuming we hold it again next year at Riverfest.

### **NPDES Permit Schedule Implementation**

Several weeks ago, Frank Lyons received a reply from the EPA in response to his letter expressing concern about the delay in the NPDES permit schedule for upgrading the Marlborough Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plan, which discharges into Hop Brook. Marlborough has missed filing one status report on the Easterly plant.

Marlborough is also looking to increase the flow to the Westerly plant. If the EPA grants Marlborough the right to increase flow to the Westerly plant, the Organization for the Assabet River (OAR) will appeal that decision. Westerly upgrades are running two to three years behind schedule. Marlborough does not want to upgrade Westerly until the town officials know how much they have to modify the water flow. The upgrade will cost ~ \$300,000 without an increase in flow. Marlborough has received millions in government funding.

If there is a delay in Westerly upgrades, theoretically, it should not have an impact on the Easterly scheduled upgrades. Ira Leighton, acting regional director of EPA, mentioned that there are no dependencies between the Easterly and Westerly plants. It is

hoped that if there is a delay in the Westerly plant, the Easterly will proceed on schedule.

Susan mentioned that the EPA can enforce penalties for non-compliance if deadlines are not met.

A meeting will be held June 2, 2009 about whether or not Marlborough will stay on the schedule for Easterly. Frank will call Ken Moraff, EPA enforcement manager, on Thursday after the meeting to get a status report.

FYI, the websites of the two treatment plant sites.

[http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA\\_PublicWrks/MarlboroughMA\\_DPWUtility/MarlboroughMA\\_WaterSewer/MarlboroughMA\\_WestlyPlnt/index](http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_PublicWrks/MarlboroughMA_DPWUtility/MarlboroughMA_WaterSewer/MarlboroughMA_WestlyPlnt/index)

[http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA\\_PublicWrks/MarlboroughMA\\_DPWUtility/MarlboroughMA\\_WaterSewer/MarlboroughMA\\_EastlyPlnt/index](http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_PublicWrks/MarlboroughMA_DPWUtility/MarlboroughMA_WaterSewer/MarlboroughMA_EastlyPlnt/index)

### **Eco-Friendly Lawn Sign**

Alan reported that the ConCom supports the Eco-Friendly Lawn Program in spirit, but cannot endorse it outright as it stands now. ConCom is concerned about the use of organics that may be potentially high in nitrogen and phosphorus. Most likely as the program matures and more organic products are available to consumers, the ConCom will find the program more amenable.

The residential lawn signs will come down May 31. Participants can hold onto them and use them in the Fall.

Mike stated that in September, the PWC can use both sides of the two fire station signs on Routes 20 and 117. He asked if we should consider having a different message on each side. Susan suggested something bold and a reminder about the program. PWC members will discuss this further.

### **The Eighth Riverfest: Rubber Ducky Race**

The Rubber Ducky race will start at 2:00 pm. Just before the race, the Hop Brook Protection Association is holding a Jazz Brunch at the Wayside Inn where Susan and Frank will pre register kids for the race with their names and a numbered duck. The course at the Mill will be the same as last year's.

Mike will bring a table, chairs, green netting, a pole, plastic bags, and a yellow tape finish line. Rob will bring metal fence posts.

Frank cleared the race with the Wayside Inn. A history of the grist mill will also be presented.

### **Master Plan**

Steve (Gabe) Gabeler, Rob, and Susan will reread the latest Master Plan. Gabe said that the body is close to done, but some of the appendices still need work. Most, however, consist of formal documents, which will not be edited. In the first half hour of the next PWC meeting, members will attempt to complete the plan, which will subsequently be sent out for review to other committees. After tonight's meeting, Susan will contact the Selectmen's office to cancel the PWC's presentation of the Master Plan scheduled for 6/23/09.

Frank also asked that the NPDES information in the Master Plan reference the Hop Brook Protection Association:

<http://www.hopbrook.org/> website for updates.

### **Adopt A Pond**

Members talked about the Adopt A Pond program and concluded that it is too early to write a proposal seeking grant funding for the program. Members feel that more work needs to be done to identify and categorize potential activities to be performed.

Members discussed the program and all agreed that before the PWC prepares a proposal, we need to brainstorm activities, set priorities, and create different levels of activities.

We do not want to exclude any interested person from getting involved by setting the bar too high for participation. We also would like to get some people who may want to perform rigorous scientific analysis. Members agreed that the program can be workable on many different levels, but it needs to be fleshed out. A first grade class may want to adopt a pond, but will obviously do a very different set of activities compared with a Boy Scout troop. There are also other issues that one has to be concerned about such as liability.

Committee members agreed that we are not ready to write a proposal at this point. Susan suggested that since other projects will soon be winding down, we can devote more time later to thinking about building this program.

Mike suggested that we look at the Organization for the Assabet River's (OAR) program, Water Wise Workshops, which is similar to what we might want to do for Adopt a Pond.

<http://www.assabriver.org/projects/education/waterwise2008>

### **Next Meeting Dates**

- Thursday, 6/18/09

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm