

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2009, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Flynn Building

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

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved for July 07, 2009.

Thomas B. Arnold, of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council (“RSC”), will address the PWC at a later date.

Topo Maps

Alan Bascom, Dave Blohm, Susan Crane, Paul Greenspan, and Frank Lyons delivered the topo maps and 8.5 x 11 inch interpretive signs to the Town Hall, Flynn Building, DPW Building, Goodnow Library, and the following schools: Curtis, Loring, Nixon, and Noyes.

Dave Blohm will call Toni Benhaim, L-S North House assistant, at the Lincoln Sudbury High School to get the name of the head of the science department to inquire if the high school would be interested in having a topo map. The high school may only want the map for a period of time, in which case the map could “float” to other places that could use it.

Potential Town Crier Article

Rob Hershfield will ask Nancy Hershfield if she can compose an article about harvesting Carding Mill Pond, with a focus on Mike O’Connor, who is using Japanese water chestnuts from the pond to fertilize a garlic farm located about a half mile away.

Eco-Friendly Lawn Program

The second half of the first bi-annual Eco-Friendly Lawn Program began September 2009 and will last through the month. The big Fire Station signs will be put up this week on Routes 20 and 117. Participants have the option of keeping the small lawn signs they have been given through the winter to use next spring. The advertisement for the program has been running on the local cable TV station.

Paul Greenspan mentioned that Pure Lawns is NOFA certified (Northeast Organic Farming Association) for organic lawn treatment. He and Mike Dufault will look into what is needed for this certification. The PWC can have a list of service providers with NOFA certification without giving endorsements. The committee could use more information to give to participants who’d like to look into organic lawn care.

The NOFA website is:

<http://www.organiclandcare.net/Sudbury Water District Rates>

Susan Crane called Al Renzi, Sudbury Water District Superintendent, to find out more about how the town water rates were determined and to learn about water use by the highest volume customers. The most recent (2009) Sudbury water rates lowered the commercial rate for the highest volume users. Susan was concerned that this could be a disincentive for water conservation. The highest volume users are Cavicchio's and Bartletts' Greenhouses .

Susan was told that the Sudbury Water District reduced the commercial rate for consumption greater than 150,000 gallons to the second lowest graduated rate in order to accommodate these users because the users were concerned about the expense of servicing their outdoor crops. Commercial customers have separate meters for irrigation and for indoor usage.

Town water is also used by Wayland businesses along Rt. 20 to the west of the Sudbury River and by the Mass. Dept. of Fire Services in Stow.

Sudbury Water District Rates (<http://sudburywater.com>)

Residential Rates:

Base Charge: \$5.00 per quarter

\$4.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$6.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$7.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$9.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$11.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$13.00 / 1,000 gallons:

Will be charged before calculating water use charges

For the volume of water consumed up to 20,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 40,000 and 50,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 50,000 and 60,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed above 60,000 gallons

Commercial Rates (internal water usage - meter #1)

Base Charge: \$5.00 per quarter

\$4.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$6.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$7.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$9.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$11.00 / 1,000 gallons:

\$13.00 / 1,000 gallons:

Will be charged before calculating water use charges

For the volume of water consumed up to 20,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 40,000 and 50,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 50,000 and 60,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed between 60,000 and 150,000 gallons

\$6.00 /1,000 gallons

For the volume of water consumed above 150,000 Gallons

Hop Brook

Frank Lyons recently sent a letter to Ira Leighton, acting regional director of EPA, suggesting that the Easterly Marlboro waste water plant upgrade stick to the original schedule. There are about four years left to the schedule.

Below is some background information about the Easterly plant, which Frank has addressed at the PWC meetings.

Frank 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. The EPA can enforce penalties for non-compliance if deadlines are not met.

A meeting was held on June 2, 2009 about whether or not Marlborough will stay on the schedule for Easterly. Frank called Ken Moraff, EPA enforcement manager, to get a status report regarding the schedule. Frank later got a phone call from Roger Jansen, chief of the EPA's pollutant discharge program, who told Frank that the schedule is still being worked out.

Master Plan

Steve (Gabe) Gabeler will circulate a one page list of what is left to be done to complete the Master Plan. Members will volunteer to write the sections and will have them ready for the next meeting in October, which will be devoted primarily to the Master Plan.

Adopt A Pond Program

The Adopt A Pond program will be addressed more thoroughly after the PWC finishes the Master Plan. The committee needs to discuss how we want to proceed with the program and what goals we want to achieve.

Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday 10/20/09
- Monday 11/16 /09 (Note change)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm