

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building

Attendees: Susan Crane, Chair; Alan Bascom; Michael Dufault; Steve (Gabe) Gabeler; Paul Greenspan; Robert Hershfield; Frank Lyons

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for December 14, 2009 were approved.

Master Plan (MP)

The text of the main body of the MP and the appendices were reviewed, with the exception of the individual watershed write-ups. A number of editorial changes were made.

The individual watershed write-ups (Appendix 3) have already been posted on the PWC's website, but some are incomplete, and many are missing photos. (Appendix 4, which is largely a photo inventory, was not discussed, except to the extent the illustrative watershed photos could be duplicated from that section to incorporate among the text in Appendix 3.) Paul will provide photos of the Sudbury River for inclusion in the Great Meadows watershed section, and Gabe and Rob will coordinate the insertion of photos into all other watershed sections.

Gabe will forward the revised MP draft to Susan to circulate to the individuals and entities identified for review and comment at the PWC's special MP working session held in December. Comments will be requested by March 15th, in advance of the March PWC meeting during which comments will be vetted. The request will be for substantive comments only. Susan's comment request should identify the MP as a "living document" and note that any suggested major changes will be considered for future revisions to the MP but not for this version, which we intend to submit to the Selectmen this spring.

Hop Brook

Frank reported that the Marlborough Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant's NPDES permit expires this month. Dave Pinkham of EPA informed Frank that the new permit is expected to have year-round consistent limits on phosphorus, which to date have been more relaxed in the winter.

Town Crier Article

Rob reported that Nancy is working on an article about the effects of de-icing road salt on water bodies. Sudbury uses large volumes of sand on its roadways in lieu of salt. Mike suggested that Nancy speak with Bill Place about sand removal costs each spring.

Riverfest

It was agreed that the PWC should collaborate again this year with the Hop Brook Protection Association on a rubber ducky race to be held at the Grist Mill. Mike noted a potential conflict with youth soccer games; he will look into that to see if there might be

an optimal time for the race during Riverfest weekend. Despite last year's rain and the soccer conflict, the turnout was excellent.

CISMA

The CISMA is anticipating grant funds from the Nyanza Superfund Site's natural resource damage money for invasive plant removal in the Sudbury River watershed. Frank mentioned that he has been urging U.S. Fish & Wildlife to consider a smaller harvester, for use in shallow areas of ponds, and also a large barge for the Sudbury River for more efficient invasives removal so that the harvester does not have to make repeated trips to the shore to offload removed water chestnuts.

Future PWC Projects

A short brainstorming session was held to discuss ideas for upcoming projects, including potential visions for Adopt-a-Pond or related projects. Some ideas that emerged were:

- Focus on awareness building rather than precise data collection
- Differentiate between small and big ponds
- Differentiate between private and public ponds (to avoid legal access issues)
- Consider small scale projects
- Differentiate among types of projects based on volunteer groups (e.g., school children's ages, seniors, neighborhood groups, . . .)
- Include trash pickup (as a corollary to town-wide roadside pickup on Earth Day?)
- Small gardens in roadways as an example of town volunteers' collaboration (potential model?)
- Start with a showcase model pond
- Include water quality monitoring in some form
- Spread the word that there are 190 ponds in Sudbury (e.g., provide stamps for visits to each publicly accessible pond, akin to geocaching)
- Create a checklist of what to look for in and around public ponds (like a bird list), including resources, flora/fauna, invasives, garbage, . . .
- Create a brochure/coloring book based on AMC's junior naturalist model
- Distinguish ponds from vernal pools

The next meeting should largely be devoted to continuing this brainstorming exercise, with a focus on goals, incentives and time frames.

Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, 2/23/2010
- Tuesday, 3/30/2010

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Susan Crane