

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes **July 28, 2009, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2nd Floor**

Attendees: Alan Bascom, Susan Crane, Chair; Steve Gabeler (Gabe); Frank Lyons; Michael Dufault; Mary Addonizio, and John Skelnak, Chair Sudbury Conservation Commission

Administrative

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from June 08, 2010.

Ponds & Waterways Committee (PWC) members will meet with the Wayland Surface Water Quality Commission, Wednesday, September 15 at 5:30, at the Dudley Chateau, 20 Crest Road in Wayland.

(directions: <http://www.thedudleychateau.com/Location.html>)

PWC will meet at 7:30 that same evening in the Flynn Building for the monthly meeting.

Committee Appointments

Susan Crane stepped down as chair of the PWC, which she served with distinction. Town officers have approved co-chairs for the PWC. Steve (Gabe) Gabler and David Blohm were unanimously elected co-chairs. Mary Addonizio will serve as clerk.

“Adopt-A- Pond”

Since the program is still in the planning stages, Susan Crane will contact Andrea Terkelsen, Town Treasurer & Collector, to inform her that we may apply for funds next year for the program.

The PWC Adopt –A-Pond subcommittee: Rob, Gabe, Mike, and Alan brainstormed ideas about how to move forward with the program. They agreed that the goals of the program should reflect the goals of the PWC. Rob Hershfield plans to ask his neighbors if they would be interested in addressing some issues regarding Willis Pond, and perhaps that can be used as a pilot to test some ideas we have for the program. Concerns about private property are very important, and the program in that area may be limited, although we will seek to provide the most up-to-date information to interested parties.

- We plan to identify and categorize ponds in Sudbury
- Find commonalities among the ponds
- Seek guidelines to help residents address various issues with their ponds
- Talk to members of relevant committees to find out the best information regarding pond remediation

Alan Bascom will follow-up with Debbie Dineen, of the Conservation Commission, to find out more about the Adopt-A-Trail program.

Riverfest

Frank Lyons said that despite the foul weather, about 30 kids took part in the Rubber Ducky Race at Riverfest on Saturday June 12th, and had a good time. Three signs were

posted near the Grist Mill and wayside Inn for the race. He also put fliers out for Riverfest at the Wayside Inn. Gift certificates for pizza from Dominoes and Sudbury Pizza were awarded to the first, second and third place finishers.

Miscellaneous/Q&A on Artificial Dams

The dam to French Road Pond was repaired and the pond is filling again. Susan brought up the idea that the pond's temporary disappearance might make a good article to raise awareness about the role of dams in Sudbury's mill ponds. Mike wondered whether we should be prepared, in the event of subsequent dam breaches, to make suggestions to pond owners about invasive plant removal during the period of time when the pond bottom is exposed after a dam breach. Gabe suggested that it would be good to have a Q&A section on the PWC website that can address this issue. Mike Dufault will write a Q&A piece for the website. We can also include before and after photos of French Road Pond.

Frank mentioned that it may have been a good opportunity to get rid of some water chestnuts, though French Road Pond is on private property.

Informative Articles to Raise Questions

PWC discussed the possibility of investigating actionable information that we could give to residents if they have questions and want to take action about cleaning up their ponds. We can give them the correct, most up-to-date information about permitting and direct them to any Sudbury boards they might have to speak with about permitting.

NYANZA meeting

Susan informed PWC that the EPA looked at various remediation proposals for mercury contamination in the Sudbury River released from the Nyanza Superfund site in Ashland. The Study found that in Great Meadows, which includes much of the Sudbury stretch of the river, although mercury (Hg) levels in sediment are relatively low, high levels of methylmercury [CH₃Hg]⁺ have been found. This type of mercury, EPA reports, is most harmful to wildlife. EPA attributed the mercury in Great Meadows primarily to background conditions and reported that this "methylation" (mercury conversion to methylmercury) is primarily naturally occurring.

The EPA does not want to dredge for numerous reasons (including the effects on the river bottom and the water column and the costs). Instead, it plans to cover the sediment with a six-inch layer of sand in an upstream segment against a reservoir that would likely prevent Hg from migrating downstream.

The EPA found the Sudbury River safe for swimming, but due to high bioaccumulation of [CH₃Hg]⁺, the fish population is considered unsafe for human consumption. Susan stated that the River Stewardship Council is preparing comments to the EPA proposal for the August 26 deadline. The PWC elected not to comment.

She also pointed out that the Nyanza remediation funds are separate from those monies available to repair natural resource damage.

Carding Mill Pond

Frank said that the Hop Brook Protection Association met with the Sudbury ConCom and that the ConCom was open to dredging Carding Mill Pond. Mr. T.J. Stephenson, Ph.D., will consult on the project and get a proposal to Frank. The dredging is scheduled for 2014. The association will need Community Preservation Act money for the dredging. The project would like the support of the PWC.

Frank also stated that Carding Mill Pond was harvested over 2.5 days and the habitat has improved. This is the last year of EPA funding, although there is a plan to apply for more funding.

Marlborough Wastewater Treatment Plants

Frank reported that the city of Marlborough has to submit status reports to the EPA every six months regarding the town's water treatment facilities. He plans to follow the progress.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, September 15, in the Flynn Building at **7:30 PM**.

Tuesday, October 19, in the Flynn Building at **7:00 PM**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm