

**DRAFT Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 8, 2009, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

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

**Administrative**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from May 11, 2010.

**Committee Appointments**

Ted Klein sent the Ponds and Waterways Committee, (PWC), a very cordial letter to inform members that he will not be renewing his membership to the PWC now that his term is up. We thank him for his service to the PWC and greatly enjoyed working with him.

Susan Crane, who is stepping down as chair of the PWC, brought up the possibility of co-chairs to fill the position. She will talk to the Town officers to see if that is a possibility for this committee.

Alan Bascom, Paul Greenspan, and Rob Hershfield whose current terms are up will be renewing their memberships to the PWC.

**Master Plan**

The PWC presented its Master Plan at the Board of Selectman's meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Susan Crane, Rob Hershfield, Dave Blohm, and Mike Dufault attended, and the plan was well received.

**"Adopt-A- Pond"**

The Selectmen and Andrea Terkelsen, Sudbury Town Treasurer and Collector, liked the concept of Adopt-a- Pond, and at some point there may be a way to obtain funding for a part of the program. Since it is still in the planning stages, we will inform Andrea that we will not have a proposal by the next Board of Selectmen meeting in July. Susan will follow-up with Andrea about potential grant money under the newly created Town grant program.

The PWC will form a subcommittee made up of Rob, Gabe, Mike, and Alan to brainstorm ideas on how to move forward with the program. Members agreed to devote most of an entire meeting to the subject. Among the suggested possibilities for which funding might be appropriate are school scholarships for classes to study/monitor a pond, adopt one or two ponds to start as an example to see what can be done to clean them, purchasing water testing kits for classroom study.

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

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

Mike reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lawn Sign project ended May 31. He will send out an email informing participants that it has ended. Many participants kept the same signs Mike gave out last year for this year. Due to time constraints this year, there was a lot less media publicizing the program this year, but the number of signs deployed was ~40.

### **Organic Lawn information**

Mike has been collecting information about organic lawn services. Since the word “organic” has legal connotations, and it is not always clear if a lawn service really is organic, we use the term Eco-friendly. Mike will cull through his information and send it to Paul who has also been following information about Northeast Organic farming Association (NOFA), and Paul will put information about eco-friendly lawn care on the PWC web site.

### **Riverfest**

Frank Lyons confirmed that the Hop Brook Protection Association (HBPA) will team up with the PWC for the third year in a row to host a Rubber Ducky Race for Riverfest. A couple of signs will be posted near the Grist Mill for the race. He will also put fliers out for Riverfest at the Wayside Inn. The date is Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at the Grist Mill. Registration for the race will start around 12:30. Similar to last year, gift certificates for pizza will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers. Frank will ask Franco's Trattoria if they will be interested in donating pizzas to the winners of the Duck race. Rob, Mike, Frank and Susan will be there to run the event. Mike will bring netting, a finish line, a sledgehammer, and some sticks for duck retrieval for the race.

### **River Stewardship Council (RSC) Small Grants Program for Video**

PWC discussed Gabe's idea to film a video canoe trip down Sudbury River. He has spoken with Lynn Purro, Executive Director, Sudbury Access Cable TV, and she is interested in helping. Frank suggested that we may want to do aerial shots as well. (The Sudbury cable studio also has green screen capabilities, so that any narration after filming can be done in studio.) Gabe suggested that perhaps we can get a graduate student to do the narration. The possibility was raised to store such a video on the Town's video archive or on YouTube for on demand viewing. Unfortunately, neither Gabe nor any other PWC members could devote time to this right now, so the PWC will not be applying for RSC small grant funds this year.

### **Miscellaneous/Article on Artificial Dams**

At our previous meeting, the point was brought up that French Road Pond was no longer a pond. The Committee deduced that a dam must have broken. Mike confirmed this but reported that the dam has now been repaired and the pond is starting to fill up with water again. Susan brought up the idea that the temporary disappearance of the pond might be a good idea for a story for the Town Crier. Mike volunteered to write an article on the importance of keeping artificial dams to maintain ponds and control floods. For example, Marlborough had proposed permanently taking down the

dams on the Hop Brook mill ponds to address the eutrophication problems, but this was met with extreme opposition by Sudbury because it would effectively destroy the ponds.

Frank reported on the Save-A-Stream grant, stating that the specifics of the grant probably did not pertain to PWC or to the Hop Brook Protection Association.

Susan mentioned that the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance and others (The Nature Conservancy, MA Audubon Society, Neponset River Watershed Association, Charles River Watershed Association, Ipswich River Watershed Association, Environmental League of Massachusetts and MA League of Environmental Voters) put together a four page shared-vision paper: "Water 20/20 Vision and Priorities," for a *May 26: "Water Summit"* at the Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster, MA. She stated that numerous NGOs signed onto it, including Sudbury Valley Trustees. It sets forth a vision for sustainable water in Massachusetts.

### **Carding Mill Pond**

Frank stated that the process to obtain a permit to dredge Carding Mill Pond is underway. He stated that the Sudbury Conservation Commission likes the idea of dredging over chemical treatment. He mentioned that T.J. Stephenson, Ph.D., will consult on the project and help draft a proposal. The dredging is scheduled for 2014. They will need Community Preservation Act money for the dredging. The project would like the support of the PWC.

### **MetroWest Article re: EPA clean up of the Sudbury River**

Gabe mentioned that an article in The MetroWest Daily News stated that an EPA plan for cleaning up Nyanza mercury contamination in the Sudbury River is expected soon. The link is below.

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1218689223/EPA-plan-for-Sudbury-River-cleanup-expected-soon>

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday July 28, in the Flynn Building at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm