

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes **May 11, 2009, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Flynn Building, 2nd Floor**

Attendees: Rob Hershfield, Susan Crane, Steve Gabeler (Gabe), Frank Lyons and Michael Dufault

Administrative

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from February 23, 2010.

Wayland Surface Water

The Wayland Surface Water committee had e-mailed the PWC to find out if it would be worth while for the two Committees to meet. Susan believes that a dedicated, focused meeting could be productive. The Sudbury PWC agreed that it might be worthwhile to meet since the committees seem to have similar goals. Susan will send an e-mail in the affirmative.

Committee Appointments

Susan informed the Committee that all three members whose terms expired had decided to renew. The three members were: Paul B. Greenspan, Robert S. Hershfield & Alan P. Bascom. Dave Blohm will remain as Vice-Chair. Susan Crane plans to step down as Chair as she may be moving out of Sudbury. Susan brought up the possibility of Co-chairs to fill in the vacated position.

Master Plan

The PWC has been allotted some time at the May 18th Board of Selectman's meeting to present the completed Master Plan. Susan, Rob and Mike plan to attend. Susan indicated that she believed that Dave also planned to attend. Susan provided a copy of e-mails that she had received from several members of the PWC highlighting what they believe were the "Top Ten" topics that should be presented at the BOS meeting. Many of the topics were the same, for example: the accomplishments of taking a survey of the 190 ponds and 45 streams in town and the fact that 1/2 were on public property; 45 streams.

A question was asked if the PWC might want to include vernal pools in the future. Susan indicated that she did not believe that it was in the PWC's purview.

Frank discussed 3 points he believes were important: 1) Census, 2) organization of the Town into watersheds 3) the recognition that eutrophication of Hop Brook is very important.

Where as many of the "top ten" points that Susan had received were similar and looking at what the PWC had accomplished, Rob's themes were more forward looking; taking the information that had been learned and using that information to make recommendations. For example: add or allow for a buffer zone around ponds....leave as natural landscape & look for opportunities for remediation.

Susan volunteered to distill all of the suggestions into a ten point presentation for the Selectman's Meeting. She suggested that the presentation be broken into three parts of

~5min each: 1) process, 2) substance & 3) opportunity to be presented as follows: Susan – substance; Dave (or Mike) – process; Rob-opportunity.

Lastly, the Committee discussed whether or not it would be worthwhile to try and gain publicity about the completion of the PWC Master Plan via outlets beyond the BoS meeting such as contacting the Boston Globe Metro West division or contacting the Town Crier. In the end, the Committee decided that the completion of the PWC Master Plan lacked general appeal and that it was probably enough that it would be televised on cable TV during the BoS meeting.

Miscellaneous

The point was brought up that French Road Pond is no longer a pond. The Committee deduced that a dam must have broken. Frank Lyons mentioned that the low water level might provide a good opportunity to dredge the bottom of the pond; but if the pond belonged to private individuals, the owner(s) would need to perform the dredging.

Susan brought up the idea that the disappearance of the pond might be a good idea for a story for the Town Crier. Mike volunteered to investigate and possibly write an article. His first steps will be to try to determine exactly what happened and then determine if there is enough interest for a story.

Lawn Sign Program

Mike reported that 2nd Annual Lawn Sign project was underway. Due to time constraints, there was a lot less of a media blitz this year, but the number of signs deployed was ~40. The Lawn Sign program officially runs through May 31, but it is expected that many participants will keep their signs up throughout the summer as they did last year.

Riverfest

Frank Lyons confirmed that the HBPA will team up with the PWC for the third year in a row to host a Rubber Ducky Race for Riverfest. The date will be Sat June 12th, 1:00pm at the Grist Mill. Similar to last year, gift certificates for pizza will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers. Frank mentioned that the pizza may actually be donated by Franco's Trattoria. Rob, Mike, Frank and Susan all indicated that they would be there to run the event. The plans and specific responsibilities will be finalized at the next PWC meeting, which is scheduled to be held before Riverfest.

Discussion of “Adopt-A- Pond” was tabled until the next meeting.

An article titled “Save-A-Stream” was featured in a popular outdoor magazine. The committee briefly discussed how the PWC or HBPA might be able to take advantage of the publicity and resources afforded by the underwriters of the “Save-A-Stream” program. Frank mentioned that he would take a closer look at the “Save-a-Stream” program to see if it was a worthwhile to propose a plan for the HPBA.

Small Grants Program

Gabe discussed his idea to video a canoe trip down Sudbury River. He suggested that points of interest could be highlighted along with a narrative. The idea was very well received and the possibility was raised to store such a video on the Town's video archive or on YouTube for on demand viewing.

One question that came up was whether or not the project would actually need grant money. Whether or not grant money would be needed, the Committee agreed that the project was worth going forward. Susan suggested that Gabe coordinate with SVT and/or the River Stewardship Council on their "Boaters Trail" for the Sudbury, which could be complementary to Gabe's idea.

Possible Future Dates:

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 8th, in the Flynn Building at 7:00PM.

A future meeting date of Wed July 28th was scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm