

Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Minutes
from August 20, 2013 Meeting
7:15– 8:15 p.m.
Flynn Building, 2nd Floor

Attendees: Diane Muffitt, Frank Lyons, Anne Slugg, Chair; Mary Addonizio

Administrative

July's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Updates

Harvester – The harvester broke in Stearns Mill Pond after harvesting 15 truckloads of duckweed, hydrodictyon, and water chestnuts. On average a harvester is at a pond for two weeks. A crane will be used to pull the harvester out of the pond and deliver it Fish & Wildlife.

Frank Lyons mentioned that Fish & Wildlife will be purchasing a harvester and that the Hop Brook Protection Association (HBPA) is doing feasibility study to look into purchasing a dredger. A harvester provides symptomatic relief to a waterway by ridding it of bloom and plant growth. However, water chestnut seeds, which have a lifespan of 12 years, are shed from plants in August and can continue to proliferate. Seeds can also be carried from one waterway to another via wildlife. Dredging is a more useful method for longer term disposal of invasive plants, but it's very expensive because it is a lengthy process that can involve draining a pond and filtering sediment.

Frank also said that the HBPA is planning to apply for Community Preservation Committee funding for restoration of wildlife habitat at ponds such as Grist Mill.

Anne will contact John Drobinski, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, to inquire about water testing.

Len Simon, a member of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen, is the liaison to the PWC.

PWC Brainstorming - We discussed ideas for the coming year such as: providing information to the public via cable TV; updating flyer information on recreational activities/trail maps related to public ponds and waterways for visitors to the Town Hall and other public places, and also making this information easily accessible on the town website.

We also discussed seeing if we can exhibit pictures at the Goodnow Library of waterways before and after harvesting to show the differences in appearance. Another idea is to work with the Sudbury Family Network to have activities at public access ponds.

Future Business

- The next PWC meeting will be Thursday, September 19, 2013 at **7:30 pm**