

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 21 June 2021

Place: Online Zoom meeting

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Brian McClain, Kerry Shrives, Pablo Carbonell, Megan Glew

Members Absent: Peter Von Loesecke, Ben Baron (Prospective Member), Morey Kraus (Alternate Member)

Others Present:

none

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:34 pm

Secretary's Report

Defer to the next meeting.

Treasurer Report

Defer to the next meeting. Sufficient funds to cover the work that Aquatic Restoration Consulting, LLC will complete before June 30, with the remaining work covered under the next year's budget.

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Cooperation with BOH

Bruce Leicher, Peter Von Loesecke, and Kerry Shrives joined Sharon McCarty for a EPA cyanobacteria monitoring training workshop. The Board of Health gained authorization to purchase equipment (\$800) to conduct testing on a weekly basis to recognize trends. We were trained on collection methods and equipment. The kit is a fluorometer, calibrated for the density of light passing through the liquid. Freeze, and unfreeze the sample to break up cells. Compare to correlations from EPA for the equivalent cell count. Self-collect the data and understand what is triggering the algal blooms. May help alleviate the necessity of conducting frequent and expensive cell tests.

Worcester Area Cyanobacteria Collaborative

We have been invited to join. The collaborative is a citizen scientist group working to better understand cyanobacteria in Worcester's lakes and ponds. They will provide testing and collect the data. Ben Baron to report.

Follow-up to Draft Priority Habitat Map from Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Seeking comments online re: locations and species deserving greater protection in public planning and prohibition for development.

Discuss Proposal for Harvard Pump Track in Bare Hill Woods

Park & Recreation proposed Bare Hill Woods for a Pump Track without consulting the Pond Committee or other interested persons. The Conservation Commission and Water Commissioners were consulted but do not have jurisdiction. The Select Board had previously adopted a policy on environmental impacts that was not met. Other more suitable locations should be sought and a collaborative discussion with stakeholders to find a constructive solution.

The proposed location is in an interim well protection area and in a forest that forms a critical part of the Town's stormwater control and health of the Pond and watershed. The town has invested over \$750,000 to protect the watershed. The proposed location is an undisturbed forest that is stressed. Constructing the track would disrupt the habitat, new and foreign materials would be introduced, significant soil compaction would occur and erosion intensified. Stormwater control is of concern. There is a steep 50ft+ gradient difference. Discuss implications of proposal. Committee agrees with, and is in support of the presentation.

Kerry Shrives/Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm

Next Meeting: July 26, 2021