

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 26 September 2021

Place: Online Zoom meeting

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

Members Absent: Morey Kraus (Alternate Member), Ben Baron

Others Present:

Brian Cook, Many Ann Boynton, Liz Allard, Chris Ryan, Paul Green

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for August 23, 2021, approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Report reviewed. Invoices paid for September include an energy bill, printing service for drawdown notice, and Applewood Controls, Inc., to replace valve position detectors that failed due to an electrical surge. Approximately \$78,000 remains in available funds.

Administrative Staffing Proposal

A proposal presented by Chris Ryan and Liz Allard outlining a suggested reorganization to create a full-time role for the Conservation Commission Agent and two part-time staff positions assisting other committees. Additional hours to be potentially allocated, shared, and used by the Conservation Committee, Board of Health, Open Space Committee, and Pond Committee for dedicated technical and administrative support. Assistance may include warrants, bill payment, minutes, coordination on purchasing, providing visibility on shared concerns with other committees, etc. Seeking interest from the relevant committees. Discussion and vote deferred to later in the meeting.

Stormwater Control Article

The revised article incorporates considerations raised by the Pond Committee and clarifies that there will be no overlapping jurisdiction. The article covers everything beyond the buffer zone, where there is currently no regulatory authority for stormwater control. Many of the projects that cross the threshold for needing stormwater control will be reviewed for other reasons, and it could create an avenue for enforceability in the future. Motion to support the Stormwater Control Article voted and approved.

Community Resilience Working Group/Energy Committee – Climate Resolution

Paul Green (Harvard Energy Advisory Committee), and co-author with Ellen Leicher on the Community Resilience Working group of the resolution, joined to introduce the resolution, answer questions, and to seek support. Reference made to the previously shared copy of the Warrant Article asking the Town of Harvard through Town Meeting to accept and endorse the State's goals for greenhouse gas reduction in Massachusetts. The purpose of asking Town Meeting to enact this is to say to all the town boards, committees, and residents that it is something citizens care about, want to see action about, and foster alignment in various local government functions.

As future activities are undertaken, greenhouse gas reduction, climate adaptation, and mitigation activities should be on the list of factors to consider. As activities occur in the watershed that affects the resilience of the Pond the opportunity to impact the decisions enables the board to be an advisor. The resolution would prompt discussion, raise consciousness and encourage smarter spending for energy use, including grants for energy efficiency improvements. Motion to support the Warrant voted and approved.

Discussion of Activities and Committee Member Roles

A list of responsibilities, tasks, and duties performed on behalf of the Pond Committee was presented and a discussion held detailing and describing specifics of the current roles and activities. Discussion included potential future board structure (vice-chair) for continuity and liaison opportunities with other Boards. Members were asked to prioritize activities beyond their current roles. Further discussion is planned for the next meeting.

Discussion continued for the Administrative Staffing Proposal. Motion to support the proposal moved, voted, and approved with abstentions.

Fall Drawdown Update

The Conservation Commission approved the drawdown, and it is on track to begin on October 1.

Update on Algal Testing Results from BOH

Visually water appears clearer, Secchi disk readings to 5', and last cell count well below hazard levels. The suggestion was made to revisit the protocol for testing, laboratory, and schedule. Concern that data (swim/no-swim) isn't available before higher-use weekends and possibly already outdated due to test schedule.

9:23 pm meeting ended

Next Meeting: Oct. 25, 2021