



TOWN OF HARVARD

BARE HILL POND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA & MINUTES

Date:	2/21/23 Tuesday
Time:	7:30PM-8:30PM
Location:	Zoom
Meeting Chair:	Bruce Leicher
Meeting Purpose:	2/21/23 Committee Meeting
Attendees:	Bruce Leicher (chair), Joe Pettirossi, Ben Baron, Megan Glew, Kerry Shrives, Rainer Park
Absent:	Morey Kraus (Alternate member), Pablo Carbonell, Peter Von Loesecke
Others Present:	Michael

MEETING AGENDA			
#	AGENDA ITEM	ALLOTTED TIME	PRESENTER
1	Secretary Report Update		Rainer Park
2	Treasurer's Report Update		Bruce Leicher
3	Drawdown update		Bruce Leicher
4	Algal Bloom Aerial Testing Demonstration		Bruce Leicher
5	Open Meeting Law Live Training		Bruce Leicher
6	7 Peninsula Road		Bruce Leicher

MEETING NOTES	
#	NOTES
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce opened meeting at 7:30PM
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Minutes from Nov and December meetings were approved
3	TREASURER'S REPORT UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed budget was submitted with a proposed \$7K increase to cover various expenses such as increased electricity costs, heightened pond monitoring, and increased maintenance on the pump house. This is the first actual proposed increase in budget in over 20 years. The Finance Committee and Select Board expressed support for the proposal. The question was raised whether residents who are abutters on the pond should bear the cost of the proposed increase, akin to how the MBTA charges towns that are in proximity to T-stops. It is worth noting that in the example cited, it is the town that is charged and not individual residents. It was noted that residents who live on the pond already pay more in taxes—estimated at \$1500 per acre of land than those who do not.
4	DRAWDOWN UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pond refilling officially commenced on February 1 although the pond had actually started to refill back in December as a result of the mechanical issues which impacted the pump's operation.



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- Bruce and Pablo, accompanied by one of Bruce's engineering colleagues, were able to repair the broken valve actuator that was responsible for controlling the water flow. Chris Ashely, the pump designer, also conducted an assessment and identified that new O-rings were needed, as they had worn out after 12 years.
- It was discovered that the company that manufactured the valve had been acquired by another company that no longer provided support for the valve, and no distributors could offer repair services. However, Bruce and his team were able to secure enough O-rings to replace the worn out ones. The pump was successfully repaired and back in operation when the water level was approximately 5 feet down. Bruce estimated that as of February 21st, the water level had risen such that the drawdown was only at depth of 2 feet.
- It should be noted that while this winter has been one of the warmest on record, the drawdown period did experience some cold weather early on, which facilitated a suitable freeze. Furthermore, in previous years where issues with the pump had arisen, the water level had never reached the same depths that were achieved in November. It is probable that we may have even extracted more water than usual, resulting in a more extensive refresh of the pond with watershed water.

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5 ALGAL BLOOM AERIAL TESTING DEMONSTRATION

- During the meeting, the committee discussed a request from Ross Naktsuji from Headwall, a company that proposes to fly drones over Bare Hill pond during the summer for algal bloom testing. The drone would be equipped with a light reading device that is capable of analyzing the wavelength of light emanating from the pond to determine the extent and presence of HABs.
- The proposed testing is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 11, with the ultimate aim of demonstrating the device's ability to detect HABs in advance of an actual bloom. While there are no costs or negative impacts associated with the proposed drone testing, concerns were expressed regarding the potential for alarm among residents due to the use of drones.
- Wendy Gendron has been made aware of the proposal, and the committee has raised concerns regarding the use of data collected from the test. There are questions about whether the company would have the right to publish images of the pond without permission, and who would have control over these images. Furthermore, if the test also involves drones and buoys, the harbor master would need to be consulted.
- The committee has agreed to follow up with Headwall to gather more specific information about the proposed test. If approved, the committee will publish an article in the local newspaper to notify residents of the proposed drone/HAB testing.



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6	ACTIVITIES DISCUSSION REVIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Intent Submission is due to be filed this spring, with Kerry and Megan tasked with preparing for the upcoming meeting. • It is necessary to bleed the air out of the pipe to prevent it from floating. • Ben will be modifying the form for the upcoming Frog Count, and will be utilizing Nextdoor to advertise for help. Rainer to assist and potentially Kerry. • Maurice will be handling the turtle count once again • Megan and Ben have volunteered to be judges at the Science Fair • Rainer will lead the Earth Day Booth as an opportunity for outreach • Live Training on Open Meeting Law is scheduled the week of March 13th.
7	7 PENINSULSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments were submitted to the Conservation Committee
8	OTHER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident raised concerns about the number of dead fish during the last fishing derby. While the committee does not have jurisdiction over this matter, they do have the ability to comment. It was suggested that these concerns be brought to the attention of the department of park and rec and/or the harbor master. • The Watershed committee receives a report from the fishing derby, which includes details such as the number of fish caught, their weight, and the number released or deceased. The committee uses the detail to monitor the health of the pond's fishing population over time.

NEW MEETING ACTION ITEMS			
#	ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
1	Prepare draft of notice of intent	Kerry/Megan	
2	Meet with Headwall to review Aerial HAB testing	Bruce/Kerry/Rainer	
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