

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: 26 August 2019

Place: Town Hall

Members Present: Bruce Leicher (Chair), Brian McClain, Morey Kraus and Peter Von Loesecke

Members Absent: Pablo Carbonell, Megan Glew

Bruce Leicher opened the meeting at 7:32pm – Morey Kraus was voted in to achieve a quorum.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for July 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report

None

Fall drawdown planning

Preliminary monitoring results/news from Wendy Gendron is noteworthy for three items:

- 1) Phosphorous level swings this year – probably in response to large rainfalls.
- 2) Changes in the mix of plants – which has resulted in some complaints about native grasses and native pondweed.
- 3) Clarity of the pond is very good – 11 feet.

Based on the changing mix of plants in the Pond, Wendy now thinks that yearly monitoring is warranted. Wendy's final report will be completed by next Wed (Sept 4) and will be part of the Pond monitoring report Bruce will submit to the Conservation Commission next Thurs (Sept 5). The Committee voted to recommend a six foot drawdown for the coming winter.

Miscellaneous

The Town is considering mosquito spraying to combat EEE. It was noted by Bruce that the insecticide commonly used – sumithrin + adjuvant piperonyl butoxide– is toxic to invertebrates and will impact dragonflies (i.e. mosquito predators) and bees. It may be that the State of Massachusetts will decide to perform aerial spraying regardless of what the Town decides. The Committee took no position.

Outreach and Education

Morey will reach out to Rick Dickson on the proposal of educating Pond kayakers to take on chestnut monitoring/pulling. Pablo was not present to give an update on a possible Press article in the future on this topic to help raise awareness.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Brian McClain/Secretary