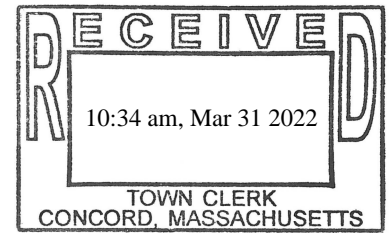


White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
2/9/22



Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

In attendance: Beth Kelly, Josh Galper, Cheryl Baggen, Jim Ricker, Jeff Parker
Guest attendees included Susan Andrews, Susan Bates, Wendy Slattebo, Katie Blair, Ryan Orr, Steve Ferry, Marybeth Barker and other non-identified attendees.

Minutes of 2/9/22 and 1/29/22 approved

Action Items from previous two WPAC meetings:

January 29, 2022

Should Town owned land be repurposed for Conservation? - no action at this time. Closed.

White Pond Brochure will be updated. Katie Blair believes that this comment at the 1/29 meeting referred to the Homeowner's brochure and that Delia Kaye (NRC) agreed to update the brochure.

Jim Ricker sent an email to Delia and Casey Mellin (Assistant Public Health Inspector) regarding WPAC suggestions on how to better communicate the existence of algae blooms to the general public. Delia responded positively and forwarded the email to Health Inspector Gabi White, who Delia identified as the individual responsible for posting pet and swimming advisories.

BRFT - Josh reported that at the 2/10 Rail trail meeting - Marcia Rasmussen has spoken to DOT regarding the need for fencing to limit access from BFRT to White Pond. The Town has asked for permission to put up a fence to protect the Pond at the Town's expense. (Some questions as to how this new request for permission differs from former requests for fencing.) It appears that the Town is working on developing a Fencing Plan and that the Town is very supportive of such fencing. Josh stated that If DOT denies the request, then there is lots of room to lobby DOT to get the decision changed.

ACTION ITEM - Josh will ask Marcia the status of the Town Fencing Plan before the next meeting.

**All issues related to fencing associated with BFRT will be put on hold until the April meeting.

Fish Stocking

Letter to State requesting change in fish stocking. Beth noted that the WPAC already voted in favor of requesting that the Selectboard continue seeking changes to the State's fish stocking policy - in particular the elimination of Rainbow Trout. Beth & Ken Clarkson had drafted a letter and will send it to the Selectboard (Susan Bates) with the request that the Board send the letter to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Beth stated she had emailed Select Board member Henry Dane regarding his statement that local game fish clubs prefer species other than Rainbow Trout. Beth asked Susan Bates to

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inquire of Henry as to his interest in this matter and how best to contact him or put us in contact with club members who would provide support to stop the rainbow trout stocking.

February 9, 2022 open action items

Ryan Orr - Stated at a Town meeting that WPAC believes that the BFRT fencing is necessary. Ryan has let Kate Hodges and others know this.

Josh - BFRT meeting. As reported earlier in this meeting, Josh stated that based on Marcia Rasmussen's comments at the most recent BFRT meeting, the Town is supportive of fencing and is developing a plan.

Lara Wilson has not yet contacted the Town regarding who the proper Concord individual is to reach out to Sudbury regarding use of the Concord trails to access White Pond by Sudbury residents in new developments abutting Concord land but will do so by WPAC March meeting.

Marybeth Barker and Josh met with Police Chief O'Connor, Brian Goldman from the Police Department and Delia Kaye. Notes:

- Police do not want to tow or ticket cars illegally parked near White Pond. Police will come around early in the season and put courtesy cards on cars illegally parked as they normally do.
- The Police Chief asked homeowners to call every time they see an infraction.
- Chief O'Connor - will not contact Cummings Building regarding parking.
- Delia said Cummings Building does not seem to mind who is parking in its lots on weekends.

It was suggested that emails be sent to Dover Street community asking that they contact the police regarding infractions and alerting them to the fact that such contacts are encouraged by the Police Department.

ACTION ITEM: Jim Ricker will ask that such an email be sent to DPOA board and FB page administrator.

Susan Andrews - suggests videos be used to detail infraction and create a paper trail of the types of activities going on at the Pond.

ACTION ITEM: The Police Chief will be invited to the WPAC April meeting.

Katie Blair - stated that Frost Farm (development in Sudbury) is not happy with Cummings parking situation.

ACTION ITEM: Jim Ricker will try to contact John Sullivan, resident of Frost Farm, to see if John has suggestions on how to limit parking at Cummings building.

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Beth stated that new “no parking” signs needed on some streets. Police Chief O’Connor agreed at the meeting Marybeth and Josh had and said it was a matter for the Town to resolve.

Jim voiced concern about the use of the Pond as a bathroom by visitors of BFRT. Suggested that there be bathrooms placed for use by BFRT visitors.

Beth - That is why people management plan and enforcement is essential - key is NO swimming.

Ryan Orr - Warmers’ Pond (which BFRT will pass by) will have a public restroom there. It was noted that there are no public bathrooms in West Concord.

Susan Andrews - noted that many people use White Pond during the month of May, prior to the opening of the Town Beach.

ACTION ITEM: Jim will ask the BFRT Committee about the plan for public bathrooms on the BFRT.

Gate closure at entrance to beach parking (not the fisherman spots)

Regarding closing the parking lot from dawn to dusk, Ryan Orr was unsure of the Town’s position, but would bring the matter up and the next meeting regarding the beach. Ryan stated that the police would have to close the parking lots gates if it was decided that closure was advisable The Police Chief said that such a decision was up to the Town Manager.

MOTION: WPCA requests that the upper gate to the parking lot of the Town beach be closed from dusk to dawn. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jim will contact Interim Town Manager Kerry Lafleur and Kate Hodges to let them know about WPAC motion.
- Ryan Orr will also bring it up at the next meeting regarding the beach.

Susan Andrews suggested that an electronic gate might be considered. Also suggested that a camera might be a deterrent. Susan Bates concerned about surveillance in Town Park.

New Business

WPAC 2021 ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

Motion to approve year end summary approved.

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Subcommittee updates.

Sewer group

Jeff Parker - Restated facts related to lawsuits being brought against towns in connection with contamination of freshwater ponds by nearby private septic systems. After reviewing data associated with new types of septic systems intended to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from groundwater, Jeff believes that such systems are not viable. Jeff stated that short term, the Town may want to require inspections of septic systems near the Pond and require that such systems be pumped. He noted that the consensus is that phosphorus can travel 300 ft.

Jim Ricker stated his concern that the cost of creating a sewer system may be prohibitive. but agreed that alternative septic systems have not proved effective.

ACTION ITEM - Jeff and Jim will meet again with Alan Cathcart and new head of Department of Public Health and start to develop a plan as to how to proceed to develop the sewage system around White Pond.

Steve Ferrey - MA is distinct from every other state - abutters to White Pond own land to low water level. Town's failure to remedy the problem affects the thirty-two abutters to the Pond. Town may have a higher duty of care in this instance. It was noted that the distance between high water and low water can be up to or greater than thirty feet.

Josh stated that Alan will say there is no mandate for his department to create a plan as per conversations in 2021. They will need town support/money to move forward. However, all the work done from 2000-2004 remains relevant. The big question will be where to put a neighborhood treatment plan.

Kate Blair has a folder of information relating to the last time a sewer treatment plan was considered for the White Pond area. She will pass this on to Jim.

Beach Project

Town has had to change its plans and the changes will be before the NRC at its March 2nd meeting. Kate Hodges alerted Beth & Josh via email that additional trees will be removed because of beach buildout.

Ryan Orr - Stated that the widening of ramp exposed tree roots and required more trees to be removed and the ADA pathway has also been altered, requiring more tree removal.

Beth encouraged residents to attend the March 2nd NRC meeting.

Water Quality

Beth stated that she has been assured that the cost of the APOD and water testing will be budgeted for. Susan Bates stated that the Town Manager's budget is not yet online, but once available, it will be detailed.

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8:38 meeting adjourned.