

White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
5/25/22

Meeting called to order at 7:03

In attendance: Beth Kelly, , Cheryl Baggen, Jim Ricker, Jeff Parker (arrived for meeting at 7:30)

Attendees:

Marya Piaskcki

Mary Hartman – Select Board liaison

Donna Amidon

Tessa Huston Fuller

Outstanding items from previous meeting:

- 1) Beach Activity: Gail Dowd, Interim Finance Director, is the contact for the beach development. She indicated that the goal is to finish the build out by May 31. Work stopped due to vacations and contractors had another job to finish. Grade surrounding trees will be changed using loam to ensure that water does not run off from trees and shrubs. According to the Town Manager, the beach won't open until June 20th.
- 2) Possibility of closing gates to parking lots at sunset: Jim wrote letter to request that gate be closed. This was a recommendation in the WPAC vision statement. Mary Hartman will bring this matter up with Interim Town Manager.
- 3) Review BFRT fencing: Josh Galper attended a meeting of the Concord Trails Committee to walk through BFRT access to White Pond trails. Beth reported that according to Josh, Delia Kaye wants to keep a 5' gap in the BFRT fence to access town trails. WPAC's intent is to limit/discourage access to the pond from the BFRT entrance to town trails. Trustees of the Old Pickard Trust II, which owns the land closest to the BFRT and town trail access point, also attended but said they preferred to wait for further investigation before making an opinion about fencing. Residents from the new development in Sudbury will begin arriving in H1 2022. Jim stated his concerns as to whether the Town is well prepared to handle the influx of people from BFRT and the development in Sudbury.

Subcommittee reports

Water Quality/Testing

APOD went in on May 20th at Thoreau Cove. Water quality testing has begun. Nancy Leland is looking for indicators for algae - when these indicators increase, they will then test for algae. Melanie Dineen, new Public Health Director, and Gabby White are setting up a site intended to provide notice to all interested parties as to water quality at White Pond.

It is not clear at this time whether the actual data will be put on the site. Beth indicated that data should be included on the site.

It was noted that White Pond was not stocked until later in the year in 2022 compared to previous years. Only Brown Trout were stocked this year, not Rainbow Trout. It is unclear if this was deliberate or a coincidence based on State access to the pond, given beach construction. State Fish and Wildlife have not responded to the Select Board letter containing research indicating that Rainbow Trout could have a negative effect on the Pond.

Beth Kelly asked the Select Board to resend the letter and copy Senator Barrett.

Sewage Committee

Jim and Jeff summarized what was learned from the presentation by Alan Cathcart at the previous WPAC meeting. They will develop a list of what can be done based on cost and effectiveness, long and short term.

Other Business

- WPAC recognized Katy Blair and David Bearg for all of their work protecting White Pond over the years and keeping area residents aware of related issues.
- Select Board representative Mary Hartman introduced herself as the new liaison to WPAC. She has previously been on the Finance Committee and that some of the cost associated with the build out of the beach was limited due to costs by the Finance Committee. She has spoken with "lots of folks" about White Pond, approves of the White Pond Vision 2021 and wants to work with the Committee to make it more effective.
- Mary believes that sewage is the biggest problem and that cost of treatment is the biggest issue. Sewage may require debt, which is paid for by the community.
- A Concord Middle School student and teacher attended the WPAC meeting to learn more about White Pond.

Meeting adjourned 8:11