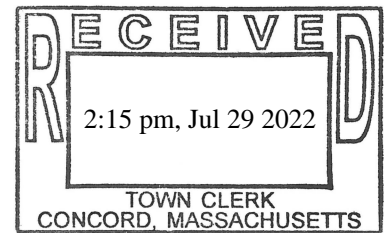


White Pond Advisory Committee
June 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes



Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm.

In attendance: Josh Galper, Beth Kelly, Jim Ricker, Jeff Parker, Cheryl Baggen (arrived for meeting at 7:45)

Attendees:

Ellen Glendon

Carmen Jaquier

Susan Andrews

Mary Hartman, Select Board

Beach Parking Lot Closure

Mary suggested that this issue be discussed with the Recreation Commission meeting (Anna McKeown - Director of Recreation)

Rainbow Trout Stocking

Mary Hartman reported that the State has not yet stocked the Pond with Rainbow Trout due to the beach construction project. She will send a letter, drafted by Beth, to the State stating that restocking of this fish not be resumed due to its negative impact on pond health.

Other Business

Fencing along BFRT

Ellen Glendon - One of 3 Trustees of Old Pickard Trust II Pond Front Land - no decision has been made regarding the Trust property, but Ellen has spoken with the other 2 trustees regarding this matter and the Trust is concerned about the water quality of the Pond.

Area of particular concern is the 5 ft gap between BFRT and White Pond Town trails that will increase access to White Pond.

Property that is managed by the Trust is under conservation restriction. Moving along the Town trails it appears that a visitor can just walk through the Trust Property to reach the Pond. The area of concern is the path that allows residents of Stone Root access to the Pond. In order for the Trust to limit access from Town trails to the Trust property, the Trust has been informed that it must bring any proposals before NRC for approval. The Trust considered proposing that the Town trail be moved to make clear that moving off the trail would be a move to private land.

NRC has indicated to the Trust that any barrier be inconspicuous. Ellen has looked into different types of fencing. When Ellen presented these to Delia, Delia seemed to not want such types of barriers.

Susan Andrews asked whether the path can be blocked with native plants - Josh stated that the path is used frequently and thus blocking it with plants would not work.

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Action item: Josh will report back to Ellen regarding what position the WPAC will take on this matter.

Changing the Charge for WPAC

Beth indicated that the Charge was last updated in 2018 and since then the beach became the property of the Town. Given this change in ownership, the Charge for WPAC should be reviewed.

Mary said that there has been a change in the Town administration and Select Board would like to have the Charge reviewed. In this regard, the Select Board would like to get information from WPAC and other members of the Town. Her vision is that the Charge is too far reaching and that five people cannot do all of that which is contained in the current version of Charge, so a new Charge should be more focused. In her view, this would also make the Committee more effective. She is thinking of focusing on water quality.

Josh stated that he also feels the WPAC should focus on water quality. APOD, sewage, and storm runoff.

Jim said that historically many of the residents in the pond neighborhoods have actively worked on behalf of the pond and adjacent Town lands with annual spring cleanups, regular policing of grounds, filling sandbags and placing them in gullies next to the water in Sachem's Cove, testing water quality, placing coir logs on the shore of Sachem's Cove, initiating the first installation of storm drainage on the access road, and complying with NRC regulations on their own properties. He further noted that when a new septic system specification is adopted or sewer is installed, the Town needs to consider how to achieve 100% participation. Currently, the Board of Health must approve septic systems that are Title 5 compliant.

Mary said that there is a perception that the Town has done a lot around erosion and the beach. And it is not valued or appreciated by residents in the White Pond area. How can we repair the relationship between homeowners and the Town, especially as the goal to protect water quality is shared?

Josh said that the perception is that the Town is doing what the Town wants but does not listen to local residents.

Mary said that going forward, the more WPAC can get its position clear to other boards, the better for the WPAC overall. WPAC might not want to be a Town committee.

Jim expressed concern that the process of developing the beach created some confusion; leading to residents not feeling heard. Conflicting statements in public forums from the project leader led to a belief that most of the decisions were already made. He did note that plans to install picnic areas in the upper parking area and an observation deck partway down the slope were removed.

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Mary would like to start with a blank page and not just revamp the old Charge.

WPAC members agreed to hold a separate meeting for reviewing its Charge.

Committee roles and liaisons with other committees. Josh said that we need to be out there and go on site visits. We need to be open to volunteers and engage with other committees. Jim will go to NRC meetings. Mary stated her belief that since NRC is a regulatory commission, attending its meeting is not necessarily the best use of time. Instead, she suggested the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee, Recreation Committee and Board of Health Committee.

Beth stated that Melanie Dinneen, Chair of the Board of Health, is very aware of the issues relating to White Pond water quality and that reaching out to town organizations will benefit WPAC goals.

Mary will take on the action item of looking into getting other volunteers interested in joining WPAC.

Discussion of benefits and disadvantages of being a Town Commission.

If people want information then residents can access the Town's new site, as well as White Pond Facebook page.

Committee has to be a balance - as a Town committee must be looking at the goals of the Town and not the residents.

Subcommittee reports

Water Quality:

Town's new website provides overall water quality information for White Pond. Town also provides this information to WPAC, Dover Property Owner Association and beach members. Beth and/or Ken Clarkson will update the Friends of White Pond Facebook page with these updates.

Town has requested that reporters of algal blooms fill out the form on its website be used to alert the Town to algae-related concerns.

At this point the Town is testing weekly at multiple sites, but always include testing at the beach.

Melanie Dineen is willing to talk to Delia and Gabby about whether the actual data should be put on the Town's website. Beth noted that there are some state guidelines as to amount and type of algae, but that communities use a variety of measurements to determine algae threats.

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Jon Higgins has reported that people are not taking care of APOD. Some suggestions to ameliorate this are: putting something in the Concord Journal; putting QR code on signs directing people to White Pond Facebook page.

Sewage:

Jeff spoke to Mashpee and they are moving to sewage but are having finance problems. Found a lot of failed septic systems. If the system is near an estuary then must use an alternative system. Unclear what legal authority allowed them to check septic systems.

Action item: Jeff will check what authority was used by the Town to inspect all septic systems.

Jim - will go to the Recreation Committee meeting to discuss concerns about closing the beach parking lot at night and noting the particular safety issues related to this parking lot as it allows access to White Pond and thus related night swimming risks. Josh suggested that the closing might be limited to just weekend nights.

Fencing - BFRT

Signage - There is no signage at the intersection between the BFRT and Town trails. Lots of People, dogs, and bikes have been observed at the Pond. Current sign is further in and not at the earliest access point to the Pond. Want an additional sign at this point and also support some fencing along Old Pickard Trust land.

Action item: Josh will reach out to Rail Trail to ask about whether additional signage is planned.

Fencing issue and/or moving trail - Beth and Josh meeting with Kerry this Friday and will raise this issue.

Old Pickard Trust has asked them to change the trail.

Action item: Jim will talk with Delia about why she is so insistent about the five foot opening issue.

Other business

WPAC nominated and voted to approve the nomination of Josh and Beth as co-chairs of the Committee.

Mary noted that she has reviewed in a non-legal capacity, Mass general laws which state that although the State has some liability for algae, such liability may be limited if access to the Pond is limited to Town residents. It was noted that the Beach allows admittance to both residents and non-residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59PM