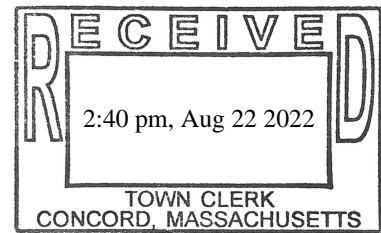


White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
7/27/22



Meeting called to order at 7:02PM:

Advisory Committee members in attendance: Josh Galper, Beth Kelly, Jim Ricker, Jeff Parker, Cheryl Baggen

Attendees:

Carmen Jaquier

Mary Hartman

Katy Blair

Suzanne Langridge

Minutes of 6/22/22 approved.

APOD PRESENTATION

Presentation by Jon Higgins of Higgins Environmental Associates regarding the use of the APOD at the Pond. See attached copy of his presentation.

Jon Higgins stated the following:

As the APOD is used to physically remove cyanobacteria, it also removes the nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) contained in the cyanobacteria themselves. Approximately an acre of cyanobacteria can be removed in 3 days. Based on data collected and observations, Jon has modified the APDOD collection setup this year (compared to last year). There are 4 APODS of different sizes. Some collect cyanobacteria that are on the surface and some collect cyanobacteria deeper in water.

The predominant wind direction is NE and this guides the placement of the APODS, which are currently in Thoreau Cove. The current (created by the wind) moves the cyanobacteria into the APODS.

185 lbs. of cyanobacteria have been removed so far this year.

There are 2 types of cyanobacteria: 1) suspended in the water column and 2) on the surface.

Jon is at the pond 2-3 times a week to evaluate the situation and make corrections as needed.

Although the APOD does not have a zooplankton sanctuary, as it did last year, the material along the sides of the APOD appears to be acting as a place for zooplankton to reproduce.

Jon has observed more diversity in the types of zooplankton this year and hypothesized that this may be due to the change in fish stocked. The State of MA Fish and Game Dept. did not stock Rainbow Trout, but instead only Brown and Lake Trout. He has also noted a greater number of small fish. The ADOP may be creating a structure not only supporting zooplankton but also small fish.

Last year, Jon observed Rainbow Trout toward the center of the Pond but has not seen any this year.

Cyanobacteria move up and down the water column. In the top foot or two of water, if there is no scum, there is less cyanobacteria biomass because they move away from the sunlight. Because the water is clear, cyanobacteria will move down to nearly the bottom as they can still photosynthesize there. Scum on the surface is where there is the highest biomass level.

As to the value of the APOD, Jon stated that he needs more data. He is taking note of such things as weather changes and biomass amounts. He expects that the nutrient levels in the pond will decrease as the cyanobacteria are removed, but not necessarily a change in the overall biomass.

He does not expect that the APOD will be moved as it is the best location right now but will move if he finds a better way of trapping the cyanobacteria.

Asked to compare this year and last year, Jon stated he has seen a decrease in the amount of cyanobacteria but noted that this may be due to: competition between two types of cyanobacteria; unusual seasonal and the weather patterns, and changes in fish stocking.

Katy Blair asked about how the information he obtains is passed on to the Town.

On a weekly basis Jon gives status updates to Town and he meets monthly at joint meetings at which the following are in attendance: REC Department, NRC, Board of Health and Nancy Leland, UNH Limnologist. The Town is very active and concerned about the status of the pond. Jon again noted that the better water quality this summer may be due to weather, increases in zooplankton and change in fish stocking, and not necessarily a result of the use of the APOD.

Suzanne Langridge asked whether the increased amount of cyanobacteria at Thoreau Cove might be due to external factors (erosion in that location, for example). Jon stated that he has not observed external loading at this time.

Jon added that there are so many factors involved in this issue, noting that it is important to support "good algae - benthic algae", for example. He also noted that the clarity of the water this year is exceptional. A few new septic systems were installed to replace older systems this past year. Jon added that he looks for any related data that might have an impact on the health of the pond and passes that information on to the Town.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Mary Hartman - searching for volunteers but has not found any at this point.
- 2) Jeff - What jurisdiction did Mashpee use to inspect septic?

Jeff stated that the Mashpee Health Department ordered everyone living within 300 feet of Mashpee Pond to have septic systems inspected and pumped. Homeowners appealed the order and they lost the appeal. Found several systems that failed. County put together a fund to cover the cost of the inspections.

Josh asked Mary - How could the Committee determine whether the town can legally have systems inspected? Mary will look into this.

Cheryl will look into whether the lawsuit related to the water quality of Mashpee's ponds provided the town authority to have systems inspected.

- 3) Josh and BFRT

Town has a plan for interpretive signage (history of the Pond), but no plan to have rules for use of the trail (and/or nearby White Pond) placed on the trail.

It is still unclear as to the rationale for putting rules for use of the Pond in the wooded area, rather than at the closest point to the Pond.

Can the Committee make a formal request that the Town place a sign with the rules at the start of the path?

- 4) Kerry Lafleur met with Beth and Josh. Good start and planned to meet for more substantive discussion of issues related to the Pond.
- 5) Jim met with Delia

Delia and Kerry will be meeting on site tomorrow (Thursday) to talk about the fence opening. Josh stated that he found it disrespectful that WPAC was not invited to this meeting. Josh stated the Town is aware of the Committee's concerns regarding the fencing and signage, and yet did not invite the Committee until Jim reached out to Delia.

Josh and Beth will again reach out to Kerry and ask for a walk and ask that she not make any decision without the Committee's input. Mary stated that she will let Kerry know that the Committee was not invited and that this was a big disappointment to be on this Committee and not afforded a voice. Beth will write an email regarding this.

Jim added that regarding access to the Pond from the BFRT, Delia's position is to wait and see - will react if necessary.

Delia would support the transfer of land in Town reservation land to conservation land.

Water quality. Data is on the Town site and Facebook page. Beth stated that since she moved to the pond, this is the first year that there has not been scum on the water near her home. Reports are well written and clear.

Regarding the closing of the beach for the July 4th weekend, Beth stated that there were multiple reports of algae blooms and thus, in abundance of caution, the Town closed the beach until they have test results. It was suggested that perhaps Melanie can come talk at a future Committee meeting about the testing protocols.

White Pond Advisory Committee Charge

Mary will talk to Town Staff, White Pond residents and other town residents, she will put together a Charge that will have to be approved by the Selectboard. She expects that she will have a draft by the fall.

Carmen Jaquier - Regarding the previous Charge, at that time the concerns were more focused on the neighborhood. She noted that since the last Charge was approved, things have changed significantly in that the Town now owns the beach. Last time the Charge was revised at the recommendation of the Board.

Remaining action item:

Jim was to talk with the REC department about locking the parking lot gate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM