

Farm Pond Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

June 6, 2010

Members Present: Doug Cassell, Pat Cassell, Judy Cohn, Catherine Rocchio, Bob Murchison, Melinda O'Neill, Pat LaBlanc, Jackie Martin, Maryellen Salamone

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. A tour of the farm pond reservation was executed prior to this meeting. Notes from that tour are attached to the end of this document.

Minutes of the meeting of the May 18th, 2010 meeting were approved with Pat motioning and Catherine seconding.

Status Reports:

Medfield Water Rights: No new information

Financial: A spreadsheet related to the up to date financial activity for the Pond was emailed around to the committee members. There was discussion of revolving funds vs. the current way money is budgeted and allocated. Pat LaBlanc had experience some years ago with revolving funds for the recreation committee. This is something that we can continue discussing and someone could take on the further investigation/analysis of our budget process.

Overcrowding Process – Process submitted to selectmen. We need to find out if further action/discussion is necessary on our part.

Farm Pond Water Testing – Testing ongoing of pond water. Baseline enterocci scheduled for mid-July. Current labs in place are assumed to be appropriate. Also – drinking water is tested and found to be too acidic and currently, the bubblers are capped. This is a situation that Mary Ellen is monitoring.

Farm Pond Booklet – No update

Concerns about CM&D Dept. using Farm Pond parking lot during winter – Letter submitted to selectmen/appropriate members by Bob M. Concrete pads remain (not something we are concerned about currently/not following up on at this time).

Marianne Moore's experiments – A review of the experiment was summarized (to remind everyone) and it is underway with Selectmen's approval.

Letter regarding Storm Water Erosion Grant – Email sent to all of us by Doug with the link to the grant document. (Letter/Document from Norfolk Ram)

Clean Up Process for Opening Day – There were some emails floating around about all of this – but the Waterfront Director had everything under control – no new actions/discussion required

Election/Selection of Chair/Vice Chair – Bob Murchison is Vice Chair and Catherine Rocchio is Chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Rocchio

******NOTES from the Tour of the Farm Pond Reservation courtesy of Doug Cassell:**

(1) Walkway (down hill near lifeguard shack) -- People have been slipping on the paving stones at the bottom of the southern walkway that comes down the hill. Problem first reported last year. CM&D has recently extended the handrail from the existing section down to the end of the pavement. It was at one time planned to re-lay the paving to include a step or two to relieve the slope. That now looks to be a problem since it appears that it would disturb the water flow down the path and into the rain garden and catchbasin. Another aspect of the problem is that sand on the paving blocks makes them slippery. For now, Maryellen says the guards will sweep often. Last night cones and caution tape were around the work area since apparently CM&D just put in the concrete for the handrail a day or so ago. Jeanne Guthrie probably knows the exact status and plan for dealing with this, so you should probably have a chat with her.

(2) Boat Ramp Stormwater Control -- Two problems.

First, the trench across the ramp: The trench is supposed to empty into a pipe at its southern end. The pipe drains the trench water to a catchbasin near the start of the path to the beach. Last evening, the mouth of the pipe was clearly blocked by debris. When Steve cleared that, water began to flow, but only for a moment. Evidently, the pipe itself is clogged and probably needs to be snaked out.

Second, the permeable concrete mat at the water's edge: A large amount of the gravel that is supposed to be between the sections has apparently washed down into the water (again). Some recent history: Until a couple of weeks ago, a substantial amount of gravel from the right-hand side of the ramp had washed into the water. At Jeanne's request, the Yacht Club (actually, Heidi Gilmore) raked the gravel back into place. I saw this myself a week ago Sunday -- it looked great! Yesterday, however, a great deal of gravel had washed away again, this time from the area just to the right of the center (that is, to the left of the former washout). This latest washout was even worse than the original one -- in some sections there is virtually no gravel left. I have to ask why this washout is so different from the original one, as well as wonder why, with the relatively mild recent rains, even more gravel has washed out than before. Do we have some human interference going on here? In any case, the gravel should be raked back again soon before someone twists an ankle between the mat sections.

Related note: We should be aware that the stormwater controls are not meant to be just left in place and expected to work forever. Norfolk Ram provided CM&D with information about "Operation & Maintenance" that needs to be followed in order to keep these systems working. (I believe this information was provided when Gary Kelleher was running CM&D, so Ed Wagner may not have it -- but perhaps Jeanne Guthrie has it or knows where it is -- but in any case, it may be necessary to bring up the subject tactfully.)

(3) Unaccompanied Child Age Limit -- The signs still need to be changed to reflect the new limit for unaccompanied children. All that really needs to be done is to place a "2" over the present "0" wherever it appears, plus a small sign at the gate guard shack.

(4) Milfoil alert sign -- We have two state-supplied signs cautioning boaters about the dangers of invasive plants. One is on the gate guard shack and the other was originally on a post just to the right of the boat ramp. When the signs from the left side of the ramp were moved over to the right side of the ramp, the post carrying the milfoil sign was moved further to the right, so much so as to render the sign unnoticeable. The sign is small and would fit below the current set of signs on the right side of the ramp and should simply be removed from the post it is on now and moved over to one of the posts right next to the ramp. Tools probably will be needed and maybe some WD-40, because the bolts could be pretty well rusted.