

Farm Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes of July 25, 2011

Members present: Pat Cassell, Pat LeBlanc, Jackie Martin, Bob Murchison, Matt Neutra, Catherine Rocchio.
Associate member present: Ellen Heffron.
Member absent: Melinda O'Neill.

1. The Minutes of June 13, 2011, and July 14, 2011, were approved as written.

2. Review of action items remaining from Farm Pond site visit.

Discussion included maintenance, Norfolk Ram and the cart path status, possibly using larger stones in the mat at the ramp to prevent wash out and the new coyote for the beach to deter geese.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will make a list of maintenance items that need to be done and present it to CM&D Director, Ed Wagner. He will decide what his crew can handle and what may have to be delegated to others.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie will follow up with Jeanne Guthrie on the Norfolk Ram project and will also ask for a remedy for the excessive runoff from the handicap parking area causing the stones on the right side of the ramp mat to wash into the Pond.

3. Status Reports.

a. Beach - Discussion of incidents of horses near the beach and eating on the beach, vandalism and police patrols. Horses are not allowed on the reservation but the lifeguards have no jurisdiction on private property.

ACTION ITEM: Pat will speak with Dudley Willis, who owns the land adjacent to the beach, about horses on his property.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will talk to Adrian about policing and better enforcement of the "no eating" policy. The fake coyote has been placed on the beach. Let's see how long it lasts and how well it does in deterring the geese.

b. Booklet - Matt will update the Rules page and send it to the committee for final approval.

c. Boats on Farm Pond - Discussion centered around the permit process and compliance. Everyone, including abutters, who puts a boat on Farm Pond should have a permit from the Town of Sherborn. Details of the permit, price, identification on boat, record keeping and timely update to Police Department were discussed. Discussion will continue in the Fall.

d. Gate Closing - The Committee discussed procedures for the off-season when the main gate will be closed and the ramp gate open. There was concern about boats entering without a permit and not washed. It was agreed that Ranger time should be increased.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will check with Adrian to see what the scheduled times are and see if the budget will allow more coverage.

Bob wondered about the winter when there is snow on the ground and the gate is closed and the ramp not plowed. People do go on the Pond to skate and ice fish. If a rescue is needed, will Police and Fire be able to perform a rescue without the ramp being plowed? It was determined that a letter would be sent to the Police and Fire Departments asking if they are comfortable with an unplowed ramp in case of emergency.

ACTION ITEM: Bob will draft the letter.

e. Financials - Pat L. asked for and received the report of monthly revenue and expenses for the past 3 years. She enlarged the copy and distributed it. Discussion followed about the numbers and what looked like a potential surplus. Pat L. will check on the validity of the numbers and try to get a better grasp on how it all works.

Pat C. noted that documentation had been found that supported the fact that the surplus should not go to the general fund but be deposited in the Reserve for Appropriations account for Farm Pond. At a meeting with the Advisory Committee on July 13, 2011, the Selectmen took a vote to authorize that any surplus money from the Farm Pond Operations account at the end of a season, be left in the RFA account and not put in the general fund.

Pat L. also produced a revised log form for the Gate Guards to use to keep track of activity at Farm Pond.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will get it copied and bound and will get it to Adrian to see if it can be used for the month of August.

Bob raised a concern about the traffic on Lake Street. He noted that there are a great number of children walking along Lake Street to get to and from the beach and the speed of the vehicles, especially the late afternoon work traffic, is excessive and the curves are dangerous. The Committee decided to send a letter to the Selectmen and the Police Chief about the issue.

ACTION ITEM: Bob will draft the letter.

f. Farm Pond Operations Manual - No report.

g. Grants. Jackie did some research on potential grants that the committee might want to pursue. The following were discussed and she will follow up and seek more information.

i. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Grant: Water Quality Management Planning - application to be released summer 2011, grant due December 2011, no matching funds necessary.

ii. US Environmental Protection Agency

Grant: Targeted Watersheds Grants Program - community based approaches to watershed management.

iii. Department of Conservation and Recreation

Program: Weed Watcher Program - OWR scientists train groups to monitor their pond/lake for aquatic invasive species (AIS) and remove the (AIS) if present. 2 hr. training, hands on, regularly scheduled throughout the year.

h. Overcrowding: No report

i. Geese Control: Fake Coyote purchased

j. Pump House Roof - No report

4. New Business.

It was noted that: Artemis Joukowsky raised an issue of concern about monitoring the maintenance of septic systems around Farm Pond. Discussion: A Board of Health issue.

ACTION ITEM: Pat C. will check with the BOH to see how this is handled and also ask how the bacteria testing program is doing this summer.

Electrical problem in the changing room at the bathhouse was corrected. Moss on the roof will be monitored.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm. No meeting was scheduled for August.

ACTION ITEM: From previous meeting - Pat C. will touch base with Jeanne to get the sign on the back of the Lifeguards chair replaced.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Cassell