

# Farm Pond Advisory Committee

## Draft Minutes

October 18, 2010

**Members Present:** Pat Cassell, Catherine Rocchio, Pat LeBlanc, Jackie Martin, Bob Murchison

**Guest presents:** None

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes of the Sept. 20th 2010 meeting were approved with Pat Cassell motioning and Bob Murchison seconding.

### Status reports:

#### **Financial:** (Bob Murchison, Pat LeBlanc)

Bob and Pat L. had discussions and meeting with members of the town financial/accounting team (Ruth on the phone, Deb Seifring in person). While the full state of the budget plan to actual is not clear, the gut feeling is that the Pond should be ok to open and operate through June on monies remaining. \*\*The caveat here is that reports were NOT available to allow month-on-month analysis/comparison (i.e. 2010 July to 2009 July to 2008 July) of expenditures and receipts – and as such, it still is difficult to be sure if we have enough money left.

In three weeks we were promised some improved reporting capabilities from the town financial team.

We also discussed Revolving funds vs. how we are budgeted – and Pat/Bob still have questions about our budgeting/financing/accounting process works now. Examples of confusion still. HOW does appropriation work. WHY does Town Meeting only appropriate funds that we HAVE? What exactly are they looking at as funds “we have” and how does this correlate to our spreadsheets. Until we understand 100% how it is all working now, we can’t consider changes/improvements to the process. We know Doug wrote this all up – but we still don’t fully understand which numbers to worry about.

#### **Farm Pond Overcrowding:** (Catherine Rocchio)

Maryellen did indeed put up signs to notify people at the gate that the pond was overcrowded and did turn away drop-offs at least on a few occasions in August. When Maryellen next comes to a meeting, we will discuss this further with her about how she felt this worked – and how to improve this process.

#### **Water Testing Review** (Pat C)

No update as of yet, Pat needing to get the log books from Maryellen and the time to review the water test data and possibly correlate it with the weather/events at the pond. Hopefully will make progress on this for Nov. or Dec. meeting. Would like a report fully done by a Jan. Board of Health meeting.

**Storm Water and Erosion:** Norfolk RAM won the grant. Jackie will follow up to understand more detail about “WHAT HAPPENS NOW” – as in.. what are the things related to Farm Pond that will be addressed in the Storm Water work. She will report back next week.

**Canada Geese:** This is something that the FPAC is not particularly following up on. Bob M. might have some insight he can dig up for us on things we can or should be doing. There was some email from Paul DeRensis to Dan Keyes about this (not adding, but rather dog use for Canada Geese control) – and some discussion about WHO OWNS Canada Geese control in Sherborn.

From Dan:

We presently do not have a written goose policy in town. We also do not have a goose problem at any of our recreational fields or public places that we here in the BOS office are aware. Presently, at Farm Pond the only time we have a goose/geese problem is at the end of July and through the month of August. This past season we had a fence up every night. The lifeguards would put a fence up before it closed. If there was a problem with geese, it was after Farm Pond closed at the end of the season and the fence remained down.

Next year we plan on keeping the fence up all season. One issue for us is that we do not allow dogs at Farm Pond.

Then – Dan forwarded on this discussion to the BOH to see if they had any interest in OWNING this issue – because Maryellen OWNS this whole process for the Pond in the summer but during the year, the BOS own “geese management”.

This is just something to keep our eyes on.

**Farm Pond Booklet:** (Matt N)

No update as we knew Matt would not be in attendance in this meeting.

**Public Education Concerns/Outreach** – (Melinda)

No planned updates at this meeting as we knew Melinda could not attend.

**COA/DAC Accessibility:** Requests for dedicated parking spaces. Requests/considerations of providing better access to Farm Pond for disabled, temporarily disabled, and elderly. NO planned UPDATE at this meeting. Waiting for some feedback for COA.

**NO NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSED**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Rocchio