

# Farm Pond Advisory Committee

Nov. 17, 2009

**Members Present:** Doug Cassell, Pat Cassell, Catherine Rocchio, Steve Scrimshaw, Sophie Cannon

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

Minutes of the meeting of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 were approved with small amendments regarding the granting of a Farm Pond Sticker to a Dover Teacher with Pat motioning and Steve seconding.

## **Status Reports:**

**Geese/Water Quality:** Geese counts to be added from 2009 logbook and correlated with Sophie Cannon's census when possible. This information will be provided to Doug in the next few weeks by Catherine Rocchio.

**Roof of Valve Enclosure:** **Selectmen will send a** letter to DCAM requesting a plan to address roof repairs.

**Erosion Control:** Doug was at Farm Pond today with members of the Conservation Commission to review the Lake Street drain. The work is progressing – tweaking still continuing. The Beach and Boat Ramp controls also look ok.

**Expenditure Reports/Budgeting:** We do not have expenditure results from this year but Dan Keyes is supposed to get this together for us in the next week or so. The next step is for Maryellen Salamone, Dan, Jeanne Guthrie, Doug, and Catherine Rocchio to get together to plan for the budget meeting on 12/12. Catherine Rocchio will be attending the budget meeting on 12/12 to represent the FPAC.

**Update of "Farm Pond Rules"** to change age limit for drop off needs to be aired before a public hearing. FPAC does still not know when/how. Doug will be providing suggested text of the "amendment".

**Preparation for Public Hearing on Beach Over Crowding:** There was significant discussion on this topic for the rest of the meeting with the following being the distilled summaries of the conversation.

- Maryellen plans for a ratio of 20 swimmers "in the water" per lifeguard and feels this is the appropriate safety ratio. With DROP-OFFS/BIKERS – there is simply no control over the number of swimmers at the beach. The stickered parking is being completely bypassed with drop offs.
- We discussed what is in place at other town beaches. Maryellen is aware of **paid for** "wrist band" processes in place to allow for accurate count control at the gate and also as a way to fund the extra lifeguards necessary.
- We discussed the idea of "Resident only" timeframes" – but the majority consensus of the FPAC members was that this was not an idea we thought would work out well.
- It is the FPAC's opinion that events such as the MILE SWIM and the Triathlon have brought a lot of awareness of Farm Pond to non-residents – something we may want to bring up to the Selectmen.

- The FPAC, in all of its discussions, kept in mind that we must allow access to Farm Pond – (via Great Pond state law) and we don't want to create a situation where private property owners are impacted (with people crossing over to reach beach). We also don't want to create a situation where boaters/fishermen are blocked and/or the boat ramp turns into the default "beach".
- The FPAC – with Maryellen's continued urging – really believes that NOW is the time to ensure that Farm Pond's usage is controlled and that Farm Pond can "sustain itself". The scenario with drop-offs/bikers is definitely tipping the pond over its ability to sustain/regenerate. The bathhouses, the lifeguards, the reservation itself can only sustain itself as a financial/safe/recreational/possibly environmental system if we can exercise controls SOMEHOW.
- AFTER discussing several options (selling season passes, getting rid of the parking sticker all together, and a few variations on a wristband scheme) – the FPAC committee landed on supporting a WRISTBAND to administer admission for EVERYONE coming to the pond. If you are driving in and have a STICKER or DROPPING OFF and have a sticker – you will receive wristbands for all occupants of the car. Otherwise – all Sherborn residents and/or other will pay a fee for the wristband. Those without wristbands will not be allowed on the reservation. There are obviously several details that need to be resolved in the implementation of this scheme – but we agreed that this approach seemed like it would work well with the current parking sticker approach AND address some sort of crowd control to ensure safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Rocchio