



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2012

Present

Chairman: **Bill Strickland**

Member: Francoise Forbes, Susan Horowitz, Art Prest, Marshall Giguere, Cindy Swezey and Larry Swezey

A quorum was attained and the meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Minutes of the January meeting, Art motioned to accept the minutes; Francoise seconded the motion and all voted to accept. (Cindy abstained)

Financial: Budget is \$2385.00.

MACOLAP meeting to be held on Saturday 1/28/2012 and Art, Alex, Francoise and Bill attended. All three enjoyed the seminars; Art indicated that there was not enough time to interface with other attendees. Bill indicated that in the past two years NALMS had a two day event and this year it will be held at the University of New Hampshire June 8&9 2012.

Lost Lake: Art submitted the invoice from Charlie Quinlin for \$1810.00. Francoise indicated that this was a lot of money. Bill indicated that the original cost was about \$1500 and Charlie had identified a plant that looked like Sparganium natans and could not be sure unless it had fruit and flowers and the GLA asked him to return when that occurred.

Larry Swezey commented that this should be funded by the Groton Lakes Association and not the Great Ponds Committee. Bills response was that the GPAC had paid the previous survey, and the Biological survey of Baddacook and a portion of Lost Lake. During the August 21, 2011 meeting Cheney Harper requested the GPAC to pay a portion of the invoice for Lost Lake equal to the amount paid for Baddacook, the difference in cost was \$1250.00 versus \$2750.00. The size of Baddacook is 71 acres and Lost Lake Knops' pond is 224 acres. The problem was if we paid this and the Charlie Quinlin bill and also we voted to do Whitney Pond. We do not have the funds to do this. Marshall recommended that we file a Warrant to do this. Cheney filed one and was successful and the Town paid the Invoice. Now 6 months later we are questioning who should pay. Marshall questioned the legality of this and stated that we should have multiple quotes. Bill was at the GLA meeting when the discussion of multiple Botanists from a list supplied by the state.

Art decided to hold the invoice and get more information.

Misty-Anne from NHESP visited Lost Lake with Brian Connolly who is the Botanist for NHESP and visited the dam and the locations of the suspected endangered species. Art questioned some of the information that Misty-Anne indicated in an Email was inaccurate. Cindy indicated that she met with Misty-Anne and Bryan Connolly when they visited the lake on December 23, 2011. Art indicated he was

not pleased that the GPAC was not working as a group and also asked if a report titled “**Protocol for Monitoring Program for Rare Plant Species in Lost Lake/Knops Pond Groton Massachusetts**” that indicated that it was from the Great Pond Advisory Committee had been submitted to the NHESP.

The document is a rough draft with hand written corrections. Larry indicated this is a draft. Cindy indicated that it had been submitted to NHESP by the Selectman after being retyped by Barbara Ganem. Art asked if anyone on the GPAC remembered this report being reviewed and approved by the GPAC. No one remembered the GPAC reviewing this report or approving it for being submitted to NHESP under the GPAC name. Art is looking for the information that was supplied to Natural Heritage by the town. The main problem is that the plant in question may not be Sparganium natans and questioned the information in the report pertaining to Sparganium natans and thus the report should not have been submitted to NHESP under the GPAC name without a GPAC review and approval.

Susan asked if DNA testing could be done to prove or disprove the results. Art indicated he is pursuing that avenue. Susan also suggested that we try to meet with Natural Heritage.

Art made a motion to adjourn Marshall seconded the motion and all voted to accept.