



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2012

Present

Chairman: open position

Members: Alex Woodle, Marshall Giguere, Francoise Forbes, Cheney Harper, Susan Horowitz, Savas Danos

Absent: no one

Guests: Jim Luening

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

Minutes: there were no minutes written for the June 27, 2012 meeting.

Officer Elections: It was announced that Bill Strickland had resigned from the GPAC and it was necessary to elect a new officers. Art Prest nominated Alex Woodle as Chairman, Susan seconded the nomination and all present voted in favor. Art Prest then nominated Savas Danos as Vice-Chairman, Susan Horowitz seconded the nomination and all present voted in favor. Savas Danos then nominated Art Prest as Clerk, Marshall Giguere seconded the nomination and all voted in favor.

Financial: There was no budget report for July. Savas Danos asked what the GPAC budget was starting July 1, 2012. The FY2013 budget that was approved at the spring town meeting was for \$2385. It is believed that the FY2012 budgeted amount was totally used up with the payment for the completion of the Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) survey of Whitney Pond.

Whitney Pond: The question was a raised as to who represents Whitney Pond on the GPAC. Susan Horowitz indicated that no one from Whitney has ever participated. Alex Woodle will look for a member. The survey by ACT was briefly discussed. It was mentioned that it was unusual that no Cabomba was observed in Whitney Pond. It was suggested that maybe there is a willow tree that was blocking the flow of cabomba from Lost Lake. It was also mentioned that only part of the land surrounding Whitney Pond was private. There was also a brief discussion about complaints that some peoples' property was being flooded. Members also felt that given that the water in Lost Lake is about three inches below summer pool level that property on Whitney Pond would flood unless the Cow Pound Brook outflow was being blocked.

Lost Lake: Art Prest talked about the tour of Lost Lake by six members of the Conservation Commission along with Barbara Ganem. Art also talked about Erich Garger having success with getting support from the State to clear the brush away from the signs and put up an information kiosk at the

Massachusetts owned boat launch. It was mentioned that Lost Lake/Knops Pond is a net exporter of invasive weeds to other lakes and ponds who have spent a lot of money to use herbicides to kill the invasive weeds in their lakes and ponds. The person from the state who is responsible for state owned boat launches said they there might be a possibility to get state money to help eradicate the weeds in Lost Lake and Knops Pond to prevent these weeds from getting transported to other lakes and ponds. Savas Danos asked how we might explore getting state funds as a net exporter. The discussion then turned to requiring the washing and inspection of boats and trailers at the boat launch. Alex Woodle mentioned that there is no state law that requires this even if we were to have a wash station and inspectors. Art Prest mentioned that Erich Garger would be looking into the Weed Watched training program that DCR provides at no charge. The staff at DCR offered to talk about boat and trailer washing and inspection programs that they establish on DCR ponds of which we are not one. This would be done in tandem with their Weed Watcher training program. During these discussions it was pointed out that Hickory Hill in Lunenburg has no invasive weeds and no public boat launch.

Baddacook Pond: Francoise Forbes indicated that she did not have a report for Baddacook Pond but that the water temperature of Baddacook Pond must be 50 degrees F or less for harvesting and that NHESP claims that there are Blanding turtles in the pond. The rationale for this was not clear.

New Business:

Community Protection Act (CPA): funds come from money raised by a 3% sum added to property taxes plus some state matching funds. There was mention of the possibility of allocating money from the fund for "recreation". It was decided that Alex Woodle would ask the Chairman of the Groton Community Protection Committee (CPC) to attend the next GPAC meeting. It was mentioned that the CPC funds are separate and distinct from the monies that the Sewer Committee was seeking.

Sargisson Beach Cleanup: the effort to clean up the weeds on Sargisson Beach was very successful.

Motion for all records regarding NHESP files: Art Prest made a motion to have the Selectmen request redacted copies of all NHESP files regarding the presence of any and all endangered and threatened species that might be in any and all Groton Great Ponds. Susan Horowitz seconded the motion. After a lively discussion as to whether the timing was appropriate for such a request, Art Prest withdrew the motion.

Member from the Planning Board: Susan Horowitz suggested that maybe the GPAC should have a member of the Planning Board. Art Prest mentioned that he recalled from the GPAC minutes from the past that there was a GPAC member from the Planning Board who only attended a few meetings. Alex was to check on whether the Planning Board wanted to have a member on the GPAC.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 PM