



## Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

### Minutes

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### October 24, 2012

**Present:** Alex Woodle, Cheney Harper, Francoise Forbes, Tom Sangiolo

**Absent:** Marshall Giguere, Arthur Prest, Savas Danos, Susan Horowitz

**Guest:** Jim Luening

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm. Since there was not a quorum, no votes were taken.

**Financial Report:** The budget remains at \$2385. There was some discussion of GPAC paying for Baddacook Pond's NOI to renew their harvesting.

**CPA Funding:** A brief discussion of a briefing by Alex and Cheney on the presentation by members of the CPC at our September meeting and subsequent attendance at CPC meeting in October. A summary of our restoration (weed treatment) project was prepared by Cheney for GLA and submitted for vetting by Bob DeGroot, Chairmen of the CPC through DOR. This proposal was deemed eligible by DOR and CPC asked that GLA formally submit a two page summary by their November 12, 2012 deadline. Cheney will augment current summary with attachment from ACEC stating our lakes are great ponds and owned by the state. Other data to be added included some information from Conservation Commission requirements.

A discussion ensued about the fact that these CPA funds would not become available until July 1, 2013, three months later than the proposed project. The Town treasurer told me that any invoices paid prior to the July 1<sup>st</sup> date could not be reimbursed. More information needs to be developed to figure out a way to be able to utilize CPA funds.

**GPAC's Water Quality Equipment:** Alex reported on the return of Hach equipment originally purchased by GPAC for water quality testing. The remaining items will be delivered to the Town's Water and Sewer department for safe keeping.

**Boat Launch:** No new information on any legislation has been brought forward. Alex related what Selectman Degen had suggested. A bylaw to prohibit transport to or from our lakes trailers with boats and motors that have weeds on them. It would apply when boats approached on Groton roads and before they entered or left the State's boat launch.

**Baddacook Pond Update:** Meeting scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> of Baddacook residents to plan for 2014 treatment of weeds. Hope to present at next GLA meeting. Talk of approaching Selectmen and/or Town Manager about their proposal.

**Whitney Pond Update:** Alex discussed canoe survey of Whitney with Bill Strickland. Found Cabomba present in small patch. Alex asked ACT to revise their base line assessment of pond to include Cabomba and treatment. Written communication from Erika Haug of ACT recommended Cabomba be hand-pulled or benthic barrier used.

**LL/KP Update:** Alex reviewed success of GLA's Grotonfest appearance, postponement of Meet the Lakes Day until June of 2013, unanimous vote of support by Conservation Commission and briefly discussed parallel funding of weed treatment with CPA and town funds. GLA aiming to present article on January town meeting to fund project cost. Some discussion ensued of transparency of funding by CPC to make them aware of our dual track. Town funding would be available before final decision by CPC, but problem remains, because CPA funds are not reimbursable.

The Conservation Commission meeting of October 23<sup>rd</sup> presented the Order of Conditions (O of C). They were quickly read and voted on. Alex expressed frustration at the rapidity of the process. It was obvious the OOC were prepared by Barbara Ganem and seen for the first time by the commissioners. There was no discussion even when two commissioners and GLA members tried to interject.

The process by which O of C are prepared and voted on is flawed and needs to be more inclusive (Commissioners and applicant) so an adversarial procedure can be avoided.

**New Business:** Jim Luening said his letter regarding Clipper had gathered numerous signatures and would be mailed following the Baddacook meeting.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, it was agreed, without a formal vote to move the next meeting to November 28, 2012 at 7:15 pm.

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