



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 23, 2013

Present: Alex Woodle, Art Prest, Francoise Forbes, Susan Horowitz, Marshall Giguere, Savas Danos, Cheney Harper, Thomas Sangiolo, Jim Luening

Absent: none

Guest: none

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm. Jim Luening was welcomed as a new member of the GPAC.

Minutes: Since there was not a quorum at the November GPAC meeting the minutes for the October and November GPAC meetings did not require approval.

Financial Report: The budget remains at \$2385 for 2013.

Water Testing Equipment: The water testing equipment is now in the possession of the town. Savas Danos offered to help identify the equipment that we have. Savas also talked about the need to do phosphate testing before and after the Sonar treatment.

Massachusetts Pesticide Subcommittee Meeting: Art Prest reviewed the meeting of the Massachusetts Pesticide Subcommittee meeting where the herbicide Clipper was approved. Art Prest, Alex Woodle, Francoise Forbes and Bill Strickland attended this meeting and briefed the subcommittee as to why we were interested in seeing that Clipper was approved. Art Prest will contact Al Collins at MACOLAP to see what they have been doing regarding the final approval of Clipper.

Boat Launch: Alex Woodle discussed the fact that the access road down to the state owned boat launch was not owned by the state but was owned by the Groton Conservation Trust. Alex met with Dave Diotalevi at the Fishing & Boating Access Department and John Sheedy at the Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to discuss what we might be able to do to monitor the boat launch. Alex also met briefly with Pat Huckery at DFW. Alex is waiting for a response from Pat regarding our interest in meeting to develop a plan. Art Prest announced that the governor signed a Bill into Law on January 10th that would outlaw the transport of invasive species on boats and trailers between lakes and ponds. This law will give us teeth in enforcing the prevention of invasive species coming into our lakes. Assuming that that the access road does not belong to the state we might be able to charge for access to the Lost Lake/Knops Pond (e.g., a sticker on the boat and on the trailer). We need to talk with the Police Chief about this given that he is the Harbor Master.

Finance Committee: The Groton Finance Committee unanimously approved the GLA request for \$95,000 for funding the herbicide treatment.

Cyano-bacteria: The state tested the water in the north cove for cyano bacteria and the results of the tests (3,000 cells/ml) showed that cyano bacteria was far below the state health limits (70,000 cells/ml). It was suggested that testing for cyano-bacteria be included in annual water quality monitoring as it has been appearing at toxic levels in many MA lakes and ponds.

Conservation Commission Presentation on Storm Water Management: Savas Danos talked briefly about his presentation to the Conservation Commission regarding storm water management. He handed out copies of information regarding rain gardens and rain barrels.

ERSWAC Meeting: Alex Woodle reviewed the efforts of the Earth Removal Storm Water Advisory Committee. Alex discussed their plans to inventory the erosion areas and develop a plan to reduce erosion and the amount of nutrients coming into the lakes. He also discussed the need for a 60%/40% match of state/town funding when applying for 319 grants. We have been told that the towns 40% match can include the efforts to clean up Sargisson Beach, all meetings regarding the efforts and even the \$95,000 cost for the herbicide treatment of Lost Lake and Knops Pond. The manpower costs would be based on \$25 per hour.

Newspaper Article: Alex Woodle has submitted an article about Lost Lake/Knops Pond to the Groton Herald, Groton Landmarks and The Groton Line for publication. The article covers the plans to restore Lost Lake/Knops Pond as well as the history of the lakes.

Baddacook Pond Update: After a brief discussion of an NOI to allow the use of the harvester at temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit on Baddacook Pond, the GPAC voted unanimously to approve a \$300 expense for applications for the new NOI.

Harvester Status: The harvester is out of the water and stored at the town yard.

Whitney Pond Update: No representative from Whitney Pond was at the meeting.

LL/KP Update: Art Prest briefly discussed the Article 1 on the Town Warrant for the Groton Special Town Meeting to be held September 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.