



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 27, 2013

Present: Francoise Forbes, Marshall Giguere, Susan Horowitz, Jim Luening, Alex Woodle

Not Present: Savas Danos, Cheney Harper, Art Prest, Tom Sangiolo

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Jim Luening to except the January minutes. Seconded by Francoise Forbes and voted for unanimously.

A financial report through January showed the budget at \$2385, however, \$300 was voted to pay for fees associated with Baddacook's NOI on January 23rd. The decrease should be reflected on the February report issued by the Town of Groton.

The chairman briefly discussed the passage of the article to fund treatment at LL/KP at \$95,000 level. It was mentioned that the Groton Lakes Association together with Savas Danos are scheduled to meet with the Groton Water Commission on March 26th to discuss the treatment and the objections the commissioners had expressed at Town meeting.

The chairman suggested that representatives of Baddacook attend this meeting to address concerns the commissioners have over the possibility of increased weed infestation if the NOI for a longer harvesting schedule is approved. The Conservation Commission hearing on this NOI will take place March 12th and will be attended by the GLA and GPAC members. The NOI was submitted to MESA on February 8th and a report from them should be available in time for the March 12th hearing. The GPAC discussed having a vote in support of this NOI. A motion was made by Jim Luening and seconded by Susan Horowitz. GPAC voted 4 to 0 with one abstention (Conservation Commission member) to support this NOI.

A discussion ensued about the progress of the herbicide Clipper's progress toward registration. No new information has been developed following the news that after some delay, the Dept. of Agriculture's recommendation was received by DEP. It was stated that Senator Donohue's aide was looking into its progress through the bureaucracy. The chair suggested that a reinvigorated effort be made to enlist the help of COLAP through its president and also through Erica Haug, a board member of COLAP, to push on this and develop a list of other lake associations and ask them to call their senators and representatives to encourage swift action on having this herbicide registered at state level.

The chair informed the committee on a meeting to be held between the GLA and two members of the Groton Conservation Trust in regards to the use the Trust's land located at current boat launch for a possible boat wash station and/ or boat inspection station to help prevent a re-infestation by non-native

invasive weeds following herbicidal treatment of LL/KP. We are still awaiting word from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's attorney about who has the right to pass over Paul Revere Trail. It is the clear opinion of the GCT and Attorney Robert Collins that the law is pretty clear on this issue. The state contends it is free to allow access to the public over this land to provide access to the boat ramp. The law states that this cannot be allowed over private property. The GLA is being proactive in this matter and the GCT wishes to do whatever is right to protect LL/KP. A meeting will take place Tuesday March 5th to discuss these issues.

The new aquatic plant nuisance law was briefly discussed and further information on how this law will be implemented and enforced gathered from the Department of Conservation and Recreation by Jim Luening. (note: As I write these minutes March 1st, I have heard today from Jim Straub of DCR that the state is preparing information for the public that should be ready by the boating season). It was suggested that when new information is available, new signage should be obtained and posted together with fines for not complying. It was also suggested when more information is gathered to approach the Groton police chief about enforcement procedures. The police chief is also the harbormaster in Groton.

Jim Luening briefly mentioned DCR's weed watcher program which will be presented to interested parties in June. It will provide three hours of training to help watchers to identify nuisance plants. Details will follow as we have them.

Finally, the chair mentioned ongoing progress with a stormwater grant to study the LL/KP watershed. The engineering consultant has been very positive about the State funding such a study. We are awaiting an evaluation of whether or not some areas within the watershed are urbanized or not. Urban areas are not eligible for such grants.