



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 2, 2013

Present: Francoise Forbes, Marshall Giguere, Susan Horowitz, Jim Luening, Art Prest, Tom Sangiolo

Not Present: Savas Danos, Alex Woodle, Cheney Harper

Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2013 GPAC meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved by all present.

Financial Report

A financial report was not available.

Water Quality Testing

The committee decided that Bill Strickland would be responsible for coordinating water quality testing for Lost Lake/Knops Pond and Baddacook Pond. It was agreed that the water quality testing would be based on the parameters that Aquatic Control Technology used for the 2011 survey of Lost Lake and Knops Pond. It was also agreed that Bill Strickland would get quotes for this testing from two labs. The testing would start in 2014. For 2013 we would use the recent results that CEI had done for the Lost Lake Sewer Committee. The question as to who would store and maintain the water quality test results was resolved – it was decided that the Board of Health would store and maintain all test results. Jim Luening will check with the Town Clerk as to whether Bill Strickland would need to be a GPAC member. Art Prest discussed the water quality testing that was being done by students from Lawrence Academy and the offer by a professor at Lawrence Academy to help calibrate the town owned equipment.

Boat Launch Monitoring

Art Prest provided a brief review of the public boat launch weed monitoring program and a plan to extend the boating season for a week or two by delaying the removal of the boards in the dam. Art also mentioned that there is an invasive weed fee in New Hampshire that is part of the boat registration program. The fee is for weed eradication programs in lakes and ponds in New Hampshire.

Lost Lake & Knops Pond Status

Art Prest discussed the results to date of the Sonar treatments. Art Prest discussed the presence of native non-invasive weeds that are being observed now that the invasive weeds have sunk to the bottom. He is getting calls and emails that there are “new” weeds in the lakes. This weed has been identified as Robbins Pond weed which is native and can help prevent non-native weeds from taking root.

Baddacook Pond Update

Jim Luening reported on the status of the weeds in Baddacook Pond. Jim also reported on a meeting with the Water Commission regarding the future treatment of Baddacook Pond with

Sonar. The commissioners were not very supportive. Jim asked for a copy of the Excel spreadsheet that showed what towns and what lakes/ponds had been treated in the past with Sonar. He also asked if there were any reservoirs that had been treated with Sonar. Art Prest agreed to get him that information. Jim said that he has not been successful in getting Selectmen to take a tour of Baddacook Pond. There was a short discussion about the possibility of getting CPA funds for a future Sonar treatment. Jim asked if anyone had a copy of the letter that was generated in 2012 and sent to the CPC. Art Prest agreed to look for that letter so that it could be used for requesting funds for treating Baddacook Pond. Because of the anticipated resistance from the Water Commission regarding the use of Sonar it was decided that it is important to get Jim Gmeiner, Chairman of the Water Commission, to be a member of the GPAC. Susan Horowitz will talk to him about this.

Guide to Homeowners

No progress has been made in reviewing and updating the Guide for Homeowners to bring it up to date.

New Business

Art Prest talked about the need to do something about the ever expanding beaver population. Alex Woodle is investigating the possibility of hiring a beaver trapper starting November 1st. Susan Horowitz suggested that stool and blood samples be taken from trapped beavers to test for disease problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.