



Town of Groton Massachusetts Great Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 20, 2013

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

Not Present: Savas Danos, Cheney Harper, Tom Sangiolo

Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 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

Bill Strickland reported in the Harvester Report that the pH of Baddacook Pond was quite alkaline with a pH range of 7.74 to 9.8 depending on location in the pond. Susan Horowitz questioned the test regime that will be used in the future and Art Prest described what the test plans were starting in 2014 and that the test results from CEI would have to be the test results used for 2013. Art will contact the teacher at Lawrence Academy about the results of the testing that was done by students in September. Art will also email the Lost Lake & Knops Pond End of Year Report done by Aquatic Control Technology to the Selectmen, Sewer Committee, GPAC and Conservation Committee. Art will also send the results of the Sonar tests done in Whitney Pond and the Whitney Well to the GPAC and Conservation Commission.

Boat Launch Monitoring

Art Prest indicated that high school students and "Seniors" need to be recruited in the early Spring so that we can maximize the number of people to be Weed Watchers. Art also mentioned the 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. A suggestion was made to have Mark Haddad help us push such a law in Massachusetts.

Baddacook Pond Update

Jim Luening reviewed the plans for moving forward with plans to treat Baddacook Pond with Sonar in 2014. A vote was taken of GPAC support of his plan and all present (except for Marshall Giguere who abstained because of his role as a member of the Conservation Commission) voted in favor. A vote was also taken regarding the pursuit of obtaining CPC funding with exactly the same positive outcome. Susan Horowitz reported that Jim Gmeiner, Chairman of the Water Commission, is not willing to be a member of the GPAC. Marshall volunteered to get sample letters of COC filings. Jim Luening will get a formal quote from Aquatic Control Technology for preparing an NOI.

Guide to Homeowners

No progress has been made in reviewing and updating the Guide for Homeowners to bring it up to date. It was agreed to change the title and to wait until February of 2014 to complete the updates.

Beaver Problems

It was reported that one beaver was trapped in Lost Lake and three were trapped in Baddacook Pond. Marshall Giguere will get a copy of beaver regulations for members of the GPAC. Susan Horowitz said that we shouldn't bother trying to get stool and blood samples for testing. She said that it would be a waste of time since the beaver problem is not a health issue.

New Business

GPAC has renewed its membership with MACOLAP (Massachusetts Conference On Lakes And Ponds).

Susan discussed the status of the Lost Lake/Knops Pond Sewer Committee. The Committee had a meeting with CEI and of the five person committee two are not in support of sewers. CEI reported that the lake is on the verge of dying because of eutrophication. The main problem is believed by some to be primarily a storm water management problem and that most of the nutrients are coming in from Martins Pond Brook and not septic systems. Susan said that another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 26, 2013 and suggested that members of the GPAC attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.