

**Town of Groton Massachusetts
Great Pond Advisory Committee**

Minutes



July 23, 2014

Present: Art Prest, Francoise Forbes, Jim Luening, Susan Horowitz, Susan Black

Absent: Alex Woodle, Savas Danos, Cheney Harper, and Tom Sangiolo

Guest: John Giger

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May and June 2014 GPAC meetings.
The minutes were approved as written.

Financial Report:

A financial report showed a budget balance of \$2,385 for the new fiscal year..

GPAC Elections:

Jim Luening was elected Chairman and Alex Woodle was elected Vice Chairman. Art Prest indicated that he did not want to be secretary and no one was ready to accept that position. Susan Horowitz indicated that Mark Haddad might have someone type the minutes if we were to record the meeting. Susan would check on that possibility.

Spectacle Pond in Littleton:

The history of how Spectacle Pond was treated with the herbicide Sonar was discussed. Of particular note was the fact that there is a 1,000 gallon per minute Town well close to the shore and no Sonar was detected in the well or in several wells around the pond.

Baddacook Pond:

Art Prest talked about all the things that the GPAC had tried to get approval for the herbicide treatment of Baddacook Pond. The discussion then turned to how to get the Selectmen to request the Sonar treatment of Baddacook Pond. There was an extensive discussion regarding the Water Commission requirements. We need to get a risk assessment person to develop a risk assessment which will be difficult in that we had been told previously that there is no risk and thus the risk cannot be quantified. The Water Commission demands for liability insurance will also be difficult if there is not quantifiable risk. We will also need to get an independent lab to look at the hydrology of Baddacook Pond with respect to the Zone 1 area near the well. And finally we need to begin to educate the public with respect to what needs to be done to prevent Baddacook Pond from becoming eutrophic or even worse – hypereutrophic..

Lost Lake/Knops Pond:

Art Prest reviewed the status of the spot treatment of about 40 acres of variable milfoil that was treated in early July with Diquat.

Sargisson Beach:

John Giger from the Sargisson Beach Committee (SBC) reviewed the efforts being done and planned for the restoration of Sargisson Beach. John suggested that in the future we coordinate the timing of spot herbicide treatments of Lost Lake and Knops Pond with the Sargisson Beach Committee so that the beach can be posted with relevant information regarding the treatment. The committee also discussed the future testing of the water quality in Lost Lake and Knops Pond and what the Town tests for at Sargisson Beach on a routine basis. Susan Horowitz offered to find out what is tested at the beach. John Giger discussed the status at Sargisson Beach: the floats and docks are in; the swim ropes are in; the signs are up; and policing has reduced the trash. John then reviewed the status of the reconstruction of the waterfront: the SBC will be using the CPC funds for this effort; bids will be coming in at the end of August; and additional funding is being requested through an out of phase request to the CPC. John then mentioned the need to begin lowering the water level by starting the drawdown of Lost Lake and Knops Pond on September 2nd which is six weeks earlier than normal. Art Prest indicated that this issue was discussed at the July 13th GLA meeting and it was decided that the earliest acceptable date would be October 1st. This issue with respect to the timing was left unresolved.