

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

Minutes



October 28, 2015

Present: Jim Luening, Art Prest, Susan Horowitz, Bill Strickland, Francoise Forbes

Not Present: Alex Woodle

Guests: Water Commission, Tom Orcutt, Jim Gmeiner, Jack Mccaffrey, David Crocker

Interested Guests: Kathy Hurley, Dave Alexander

Selectman: Peter Cunningham

Meeting Minutes:

Jim Luening called meeting to order at 7:15 PM in second floor conference room.

Financial: The current GPAC balance is \$2385.00.

Jim' Luening started by trying to determine if there was common ground on the restoration of Baddacook Pond between the Groton Water Commission (GWC) and the Great ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC)

Questions:

- 1) Is there agreement that Baddacook Pond has an invasive weed problem – both the GPAC and GWC agreed that it did. However, Tom Orcutt, Water Superintendent, said “maybe”
- 2) Is there agreement that the weed problem must be addressed
 - To stop water quality degradation
 - Stop destruction of habitat
 - For the safety of recreational users

GWC stated that the weeds impacted recreation users.

- 3) Is there agreement that the GWC has assumed responsibility for the the water quality, viability and safety of Baddacook Pond

Jim Gmeiner stated that the Water Department is not responsible for the Baddacook Pond water quality, only the well. David Crocker stated that they could pump even if the whole pond grows in. Tom Orcutt stated that the well gets water from upstream of the pond. The pond has a low influence.

Susan indicated that the watershed committee is working on the Lost Lake Water Shed and Baddacook will benefit from their work and that Baddacook is worse than Lost Lake. The eutrophication of Baddacook becoming a dead pond hurts every one. Jim Gmeiner indicated that this may not be the definition of eutrophication and Dave Crocker indicated that the water source is under ground from the south east and the condition of Baddacook may not have a effect of the well. Art Prest indicated that, as a water body deteriorates and algae forms, the water will be affected.

Susan Horowitz also stated that she has been a member of the GPAC since its inception and that a member of the water commission has not supported this effort. Susan reminded the GWC that a Water Commissioner should be on the GPAC.

Bill Strickland asked since the Water Department owns the pond what is the next step? Tom Orcutt stated that they only control the water rights. They do not control the pond.

Jim Gmeiner indicated that we need to do a study to determine:

1. Do we have a solution
2. Does Baddacook have a connection to the well
3. What is the level of eutrophication
4. Hydrological study to determine if a connection exists.

Peter Cunningham indicated that we should look for a study that would use CPA funds to find a solution.

Dave Crocker indicated that a non herbicide solution is needed as he suggested in the past such as Solar-bee or Diver assisted Suction Harvesting.

Bill Strickland indicated that many neighboring towns such as Ayer, Lunenburg, Shirley, Harvard, Littleton and Westford have many years of successful lakes and pond management. Can Groton take advantage of this work. David Crocker indicated his concern that Westford had a problem with Nab (Nabnasset) where too high of a concentration of herbicide was applied. A well had to be shut down for 30 days.

The discussion with the GEC commission concluded with a request by the GPAC to consider a joint effort to find a solution to Baddacook's weed problem. The Water commission plans to have a follow up meeting to consider that proposal.

Kathy Hurley is a 30 year resident of Whitney pond and she can not paddle board from her dock to the center of the pond. Jim Luening asked if she would like to become the GPAC representative of Whitney Pond. She