

Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee (LLWAC)

Town of Groton, Groton, MA 01450 978-448-1111

Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2014

At Town Hall

Present: Mark Deuger, Tom Orcutt (Groton Water Dept.), John Petropoulos (BOS), Arthur Prest (Finance Comm.)

Not present: Susan Horowitz (BOH), Michael Rosa

Recorder: Stephen Legge

Call to Order: Chairman Prest called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The November 6th meeting minutes were approved as amended, unanimously.

Request for Information Draft Document:

Petropoulos passed out a draft. He offered some late improvements to the draft. Lively and lengthy discussion ensued about the document's objective, appropriateness of words and the tone (as perceived by outside consultants whom we wish to be interested in talking to us at no cost to the Town). Deuger wants to see qualifications from those responding. It was finally agreed responses should be due by Wednesday, January 21st at 1:00 PM. Prest offered to incorporate changes discussed, check for consistency of words used throughout and re-issue the draft for review.

Discussion of Topics/Visitors for Future Meetings:

Orcutt reminded that Martha Morgan of the Nashua River Watershed Association is coming in on December 11th to talk with us about water quality and testing issues, as seen from their viewpoint.

Prest reminded that he plans to have Jane Peirce, a program manager at Mass DEP, come in to talk with us in January. He considers her highly qualified to assist us with the committee's interests and concerns. Prest is particularly interested to hear Peirce's views on the Martins Pond Brook rating upgrade issue.

Prest mentioned he wishes the committee to go to a once monthly meeting schedule. He will draft a new schedule of meeting dates coming up. He mentioned further that special (extra) meetings may be called as warranted by circumstances.

Martins Pond Brook Water Quality Rating Discussion:

Deuger said there has been no water quality sampling of the brook since 2004. He believes the rating upgrade came about from a (subjective) judgment based on improvements made to near-area storm water handling systems. He stated that phosphate levels alone (150 ppb) would not justify such a change in rating.

Jane Peirce of MA DEP told Art Prest that there are two big issues in water quality for many bodies in the state, and they are 1) mercury in fish and 2) levels of weed growth in water.

Jane Peirce also told Art Prest that storm water runoff and consequent erosion are a major source of phosphates introduced into water bodies. There are significant residual phosphates in the soil, even many years after the termination of phosphate fertilizer application.

TMDL Information on Bare Hill Pond in Harvard:

(TMDL means Total Maximum Daily Load). Deuger spoke with Liz Allard about the background and present day activities of the Bare Hill Watershed Management Committee (BHWMC). Bare Hill Pond is very shallow and has a peat bottom. The committee is working on a major storm water management and remediation project. It has contracted with an aquatic biologist to provide professional advice. There is a website with references to Wendy's published materials.

Adjournment:

Quorum was lost at 8:15 and the meeting was adjourned.

**** The next meeting is scheduled for next week on Thursday, December 11th ****