

Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee (LLWAC)

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

Meeting Minutes - July 16, 2015

At Town Hall

Present: Mark Deuger, Susan Horowitz (BOH), John Petropoulos (BOS), Arthur Prest (Finance Comm.), Michael Rosa

Not present: Tom Orcutt (Groton Water Dept.),

Visitors: Alex Woodle

Recorder: Stephen Legge

Call to Order: Chairman Prest called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Some general comments were made by committee members.

Petropoulos cautioned members not to take significant actions at meetings if they were not initially posted on the agenda. He mentioned as an example the last meeting's motion to create a subcommittee to work on the RFP.

Deuger is concerned that the committee is becoming favorably inclined to certain consultants, and should instead be more focused on due process for hiring consultants.

New Committee Member Candidate:

Alex Woodle has been asked to join the committee. His extensive experience with water quality management and his concern for town water resources led him to consider this. Mr. Woodle did, however express grave concern about the direction of past and current efforts with the Lost Lake Watershed. In particular he expressed concerns about Mr. Petropoulos' intentions with regard to allowing the committee to progress to constructive recommendations and then actually solving the problems in the watershed. He wants to see the committee choose one of at least three very capable consultants to study the current situation, and then to proceed with actions to resolve the watershed's problems. Woodle asked Petropoulos directly, what are his intentions for this committee's stated objectives.

Petropoulos answered, he is concerned that the committee pursue and execute a good and defensible process for resolving problems. He is not against any particular solution. Woodle expressed satisfaction with Petropoulos' answer and stated his willingness to apply for committee membership.

Prest will ask the Selectmen to appoint Woodle at their next meeting.

Site Visit Discussion:

Prest stated he was unable to schedule a boat tour of the lake and pond with the members, so he brought to the meeting photographs and several samples of organisms residing in Lost Lake for viewing and discussion. These included filamentous algae and a bladderwort which he suspected was a possible utricularia. This latter is very much like a fishing net material with a very fine mesh, and the tiny bladders intertwined.

There was also discussion of variable-leaf milfoil, an invasive plant and Eurasian milfoil. The former type seems to be much more resistant to Sonar treatments than the latter type, according to Prest.

With regard to the filamentous algae, Prest said much research has concluded that excessive amounts of phosphate are usually to blame. It is less clear what causes variable-leaf milfoil to proliferate.

Discussion of RFP to be Issued by the Committee:

Petropoulos stated, we need indisputable evidence on the things which will eventually underlie an action plan, and it must come from authoritative sources, not just from our own observations and anecdotal evidence. This is what is needed to “fly” at Town Meeting.

Deuger said we have the expertise on the committee to put together a lake management plan, with a consistent water quality monitoring plan. He feels we can do this, and execute the plan, without help from consultants.

Prest commented Petropoulos is on the right track – we must have this blessed by respectable professionals.

Petropoulos said the purpose of our RFP should be to write a good grant proposal and win it!

Deuger: We should start writing the grant proposal now because it is due in January. He wants to see a tighter Section 3, Scope of Services in the RFP.

Rosa: Change Section 2 title to “Historical Perspective”, or “Background”. The last two paragraphs in the current section 2 (top of Page 3) should go into a Section titled “Purpose” or “Project Description”.

Petropoulos would like us to take out judgmental language in the RFP, i.e., we should be making no assumptions at this point about possible outcomes.

Deuger: One of the problems we created with the former CEI study was not giving proper instructions about what to do and how to do it.

It was concluded that it was a big job, and a tricky one to get the right language into the RFP, to meet our needs, and also to avoid creating problems downstream by commission or omission. It was agreed that Prest and Deuger will work together to have an amended draft of the RFP by the next meeting which will attempt to address all of the concerns expressed.

Approval of Minutes:

Rosa moved the minutes of March 12, 2015 be approved as written. Petropoulos seconded. The minutes were approved 4-0 with one abstention by Horowitz.

Petropoulos moved the minutes of April 23, 2015 be approved as written. Rosa seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Petropoulos moved the minutes of May 14, 2015 be approved as written. Deuger seconded. The minutes were approved 4-0 with one abstention by Rosa.

Horowitz moved the minutes of June 18, 2015 be approved as written. Minor revisions were discussed. The minutes were approved as revised, 5-0. Legge will incorporate revisions.

Adjournment:

Rosa moved the meeting be adjourned. Petropoulos seconded. The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:02 PM.

**** The next meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM. ****