

August 3, 2022

At Mill Pond Lodge

Present: Ryan Goodwin, Deb Hamilton (scribe), Zip Corning, Matthew Schwan, Paul Delaney, Robin Pendergast, members. Jennifer Costain, new associate member.

Paul Sevigny, WN Health Agent.

- Meeting started at 6:40PM
- Board of Health Report. Paul has been testing Mill Pond water quality since 2019, will do so again this summer, 3 times, checking for Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) twice weekly, seeking changes in scum levels. He may issue a health warning advisory through October. It tends to accumulate in certain areas like the dike. Tests cost \$80-180/ test. If needed, signs can be posted saying "Avoid contact with water."
- Dog waste. A dog walker from Ipswich and his son have placed barrels along the trails and have been changing out the plastic bags as needed. He has since called several Town officials to complain about horse manure on the trails. Ryan called him back to say the trails are dedicated to horses and maintained in large part by the horse community. The MPC and the Town have no interest in changing equine use. Frank replied that he'd be picking up his cans then. Robin and Ryan indicated that they'd continue stocking poop bags and emptying the waste cans. Ryan will look into reinstalling a dispenser for poop bags on the MP kiosk, as the former one has disappeared.
- Dike repair. The MPC inspected the dike on the SE corner of the Pond, agreed that it needs new riprap, gravel, and fill where it has eroded on both sides. Ryan to address with DPW head, Wayne Amaral. DPW has started mowing again along the edge of the Pond and in front of the Lodge.
- Tree ID Trail. The MPC voted to approve design and installation of 26 signs to be placed on specimen trees around MP. The signs were designed and paid for by the WN Tree Committee, Fred Chanania, Chair.
- All Access Trail. Landscape architect Trent Lloyd found all interested stakeholders were concerned about erosion and disallowing parking along the edge of the Pond. Focus to be on the all-access trail around to the south side past the dike, with less parking down at the pond. Her latest design plan eliminates the pond frontage road beyond the dam and adds parking for up to 10 cars behind the Mill Pond Lodge. Robin's feedback from the working group meeting was that there be less energy and money spent on parking. The Fire Department does not see any problem with reconfiguring the driveway. Changing the frontage road to a trail will be more attractive for all users and makes sledding on the hill safer in the winter. Funds to upgrade picnic area etc. can come from CPC. Vote was held 6-0 to support Trent's vision of plan and assigned Robin Pendergast to represent Mill Pond Committee to the tri-committed working group that includes Robin, plus Open Space Committee member, Park and Rec. Committee Member. Other upgrades recommended include signage, boat unloading area with a path, and the dock needs an articulated ramp.
- Water Level Study. Selectman David Archibald asked whether we can monitor the Pond depth, to see if it is again becoming shallower. It was last dredged around 15 years ago. Do we have engineering data showing it's depth? Water quality? Zippy, Ryan and Matt will do some measuring and testing in October and April.
- Service Day. Tentatively October 1. Need to weed whack, clean bird debris from porch, clean inside. {Deb and members of the WNRDC took care of the Lodge for their Summer Social in the building on September 17. All is now in good shape} Volunteers could be PRHS students needing community service time.
- Maps. Ryan asked about using STRAVA maps, programmed by ECTA. Ongoing discussion re trail marking postponed.
- Austin Property. Greenbelt and the Town are in discussion with the owners about purchasing and protecting the 38-acre Austin parcel abutting Poor House Lane.
- Winter Carnival. Tentative date—February 5, 2023.
- Traffic Study.
- Next meeting—November 2, 7 pm. Location TBD.
- Discussion of Current Mill Pond Financials
 - Current savings acct. \$5237
 - Gift. \$1000
 - Annual budget. \$2100
 - Total assets. \$8337
- Meeting adjourned 9 pm.