

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Remote Meeting
Minutes June 24, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:34

In attendance Carmen Jaquier, Nina Nickels, Cheryl Baggen, Evan Ricker

Jane Hotchkiss - Selectboard Member
Jim Lyons - Chair BFRT
Delia Kaye - Natural Resources Commission
Numerous other guests.

Minutes of previous meeting approved

Jim Lyons - stated that he observed 52 people, as well as unleashed dogs, swimming in White Pond in areas where swimming is prohibited.

Delia reported:

- Such improper use of White Pond has been a consistent problem and due to budgetary constraints she was not allowed to hire summer employees to help monitor activities such as prohibited swimming, until the past week. Delia is now looking to hire such summer help.
- She has requested that the Town create a new position - Land Manager. One responsibility of a person in this position would be to make sure that existing rules on Town land are complied with.
- Restoration of the slopes as part of the Town's long-term project to reduce erosion is 95% complete.
- NRC is having new signs created to help manage use of WP
- She does not have answers as to how to deal with the number of people visiting the pond, but she will bring back peoples' concerns to the Town.
- Neighborhood assistance with cleanup of the area is appreciated.
- Police should be called if people build fires on the beach of there is late hour activities.

The following concerns were voiced by participants:

Some people are not using designated paths to access the beach.

Individuals are coming off the bike trail to access the beach.

When the beach is crowded people are using the recently restored areas.

Drinking at night

Insufficient signage

Parking issues, particularly on Jennie Dugan

Bushes being cut to allow boats to be brought to the water

Bike use on non-bike trails

No one is monitoring who is parking in the Town parking lot so individuals are parking there and walking to other areas of the Pond to swim.

Much of this activity is causing severe damage to WP and there is need for consistent enforcement of rules

Steven Goodman stated that these same issues that have been facing the WPAC for years and there is still no plan in place to prevent misuse of WP

Carmen stated that based on her conversations with State Fisheries, there is unlikely to be a change in the fish stocking policies.

Suggestions by attendees:

Ticket cars parked in no-parking areas

Increase the signage and indicate that violations may result in fines

Have Seletboard visit

Jane Hotchkiss stated that the Board is well aware of the issues relating to WP and has supported and advocated for monitoring and testing budgets items.

She also asked people to email her jhotchkiss@concordma.gov with concerns

Meeting adjourned 8:51