



White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
2/9/22

Meeting called to order at 7:02

In attendance: Beth Kelly, Josh Galper, Cheryl Baggen

Abbreviated meeting to address concerns over people management at White Pond, in particular, the effect of the recent decision by MA DOT to restrict fencing of the BFRT.

Josh introduced the topic, mentioning that the BFRT Committee will be meeting tomorrow (Thursday, February 10th) and Josh will be addressing the BFRT Committee to share the concerns the WPAC has with regard to the State's new policy which resulted in the removal of fencing along the Rail Trail from the Plan. The purpose of the fencing was to restrict the ability of visitors to the Trail to visit White Pond.

Under its new policies, the State is unwilling to build a fence or have anyone else build a fence on the Trail, except as needed for the safety of the visitors of the Trail. If the previously planned fencing is not allowed, Trail visitors are likely to access the Pond by means of land controlled by Old Pickard Trust 2. All individuals owning property on Stone Root are members of the Trust.

What are the options of WPAC?

Josh noted that at the last meeting of WPAC, Marcia Rasmussen stated that she was unsure whether NRC would allow a fence to be placed on land between the Pond and the Rail Trail. It was Josh's understanding that the Trust prohibited such structures, but that issue needs further investigation.

Beth stated that the area in question was heavily used during previous summers as an access to the Pond.

Josh noted that the Town is aware of the problem and concerned and it was his understanding that Delia intended to propose a solution to the State's latest action. - Bob White of the Trails Committee thought she would propose something.

Alice Rosen - Asked whether homeowners living on Stone Root would have access to the Pond if a fence was installed.

Preventive and enforcement.

Josh indicated that Stone Root residents were not aligned as to whether the Pond's health was more important than quick access to the Pond.

It was noted that while the rangers hired by the Town had some impact on limiting improper access to the Pond, overall they have not been successful as they have no power to enforce the rules. It was further noted that Delia was not willing to have rangers work both weekend days and she saw the rangers as a means of educating the public rather than enforcing rules associated with the use of the Pond..

The members of WPAC felt that the best way to protect the Pond was to prevent visitors from BFRT by means of a physical barrier on Town land that prevents visitors from BFRT access to White Pond Trails and White Pond itself.

Lara Wilson - Suggested that parties walk the properties to clarify where a fence would be most beneficial. Suggested that we be precise about where to put such a fence.

Beth stated her belief that WPAC needed to act proactively not reactively.

WPAC decided not to vote on a resolution as more information was needed both from the BFRT Committee and Delia. It was noted that the Committee must make it clear that the need for the fence was imperative, as the lack of such a fence would have financial implications for the Town it is imperative that a fence is required.

Ryan Orr - Stated that he would make sure that the Town understands the necessity of a fence.

Tomorrow night at the BFRT meeting, Josh will present the Committee's position on fencing.

Carmen Jaquier Indicated that the shallow water at Sachem Cove, with limited water exchange, was particularly vulnerable to an influx of people.

Access from Sudbury development.

Chris Gerson states that the Town of Sudbury will not use or promote the use of White Pond.

It was suggested that the developer be required to establish a fund to pay rangers to protect the Pond.

Lara Wilson - Will call Town to see who has the proper authority to reach out to Sudbury regarding access to White Pond from Sudbury in general and the new development in particular. It was suggested that the Planning Board know about WPAC's concern.

Marybeth Barker - Stated that she has worked with Lori Capone, the Conservation Coordinator in Sudbury. She agreed to reach out to Lori regarding use of White Pond from the Sudbury development.

Visitor Management Plan -

Lara, Marybeth and Josh had worked on the Plan -

Greg Mueller - Trustee of Old Pickard Trust II

Stated that there is a tacit acknowledgement that fencing is good for the Pond. He believes that the Trustees are willing to consider possible solutions to limit visitors from BFRT from accessing the Pond and that such a conversation will be had in the near future.

Visitor Management Plan - what has to happen.

Meet with police officials regarding parking and enforcement of no swimming rules.

Meet with NRDC regarding enforcement of no swimming rules.

Steven Schloss:

Wanted to know about WPAC's position on open swimming -

Josh made clear that the Visitor Management Plan was focused on limiting access from individuals not authorized to use the pond for swimming and that the Committee was not in any way suggesting that private homeowner's use of the pond be limited.

Adjournment - 8:12