Meeting called to order at 7:20
In attendance: Carmen Jaquier, Beth Kelly Jeff Parker, Cheryl Baggen

1/27/21 Minutes approved as amended

Carmen reported:

Regarding BFRT Committee
48 inch high wood fence will be extended to the Culvert.
Committee indicated it was already having the public not abiding by the signage.

Commission on Disability
Were satisfied with new changes included in the Town’s proposed buildout of the beach area - in particular regarding drop off, but Jennifer Brooke, Commission’s expert, stated the drop off area should only be a ramp and no stairs.

Discussion of Vision Statement

Try to keep original doc and add notes regarding progress and additional data

Change in ownership

Recommendations that did not work

Looking at Key components on page 4 of the current Vision Statement:

Erosion control Thoreau Cove -
WPAC should contact 3 private owners of the land abuting this area. Areas needs to be replanted - stabilized. As a minimum - coir logs should be placed at the base of the eroded area. Perhaps ask volunteers to work on this project.

Discussion of potential buyers/builders of building lot for sale on Seymour Street.
Want builders/owners aware of best practices as owners of properties in the White Pond watershed. It was noted that ESS and NRC created a Homeowner’s Guide which covered all of
the issues relating to protection of the Pond. Discussion of getting more copies of this Guide and perhaps making it available on-line as this would allow greater access.

Jane Hotchkiss - recommended that with regard to educating the public, it would be beneficial if the Town and others saw that current property owners were leading on erosion control and other work that benefits the Pond. She suggested we catalogue efforts by property owners doing their part. White Pond community caring for itself. Feature the individuals who have been putting in the great efforts.

Discussion of potential forum with Susan Rask and Delia - take advantage of the fact that people are focused on the beach and get more property owners aware of ways they can help maintain the health of the Pond.

Only catch basin going forward that is not maintained by the Town is the one on private land - Erosion work by Town is complete - ongoing erosion issues will be on private property and will be managed via education and perhaps fund raising.

Discussion of possible use of land on the north side of the beach as a place where individuals who do not have a season pass can be allowed access to the Pond - thereby precluding the need for them to use Sachem Cove. - Perhaps issue timed beach passes. Various issues associated with such a proposal would have to be worked out. Jerry Frankel thought this was a great idea as that piece of beach front is already being used as a way to access the pond and it is formally outside of life guard's control. Opportunity to make something of it. Could serve as a release valve for those formerly using Sachem Cove. Controlled but less controlled. Swim at your own risk plot.

Various issues associated with such use, particularly liability, would have to be worked out. - Jane Hotchkiss will look into this.

BIKERS
BFRT has good signage. WPAC will have to work with BFRT Committee to make sure that bikers are not using White Pond to swim.

This issue was not in the Vision Statement
Must include language that reinforces that bikes are restricted to the BFRT and not allowed to ride on the other paths in the Town Conservation land. It was noted that there is no signage at the underpass preventing bikers from continuing on the dirt paths. Enforcement in this area will be needed.

Discussion of the need for enforcement as signage alone is insufficient as evidenced by what happened this past summer. Important to write down expressly what public behavior was when rangers were around versus when they were not. Discussion of when rangers should be on site - weekends and evening, versus morning, when fewer people are accessing the bike trails and the Sachem Cove beach.
The cost of hiring rangers and enforcement is cheaper than having to pay for replanting the hillside as a result of erosion issues.

Police Office Rod Holsinger has been working with property owners in the White Pond area. It was agreed that it would be useful to invite the Police Department to attend a WPAC meeting to discuss patrols and best ways to proceed if there are homeowner concerns.

Jerry - in his experience, the time when police on bikes were coming to the pond was not the time that enforcement was needed. Previously had invited police to a WPAC meeting to discuss related matters - usually in May. Good timing to hear WPAC concerns and what the Police Department had in mind. Delia - in charge of rangers. Ask Delia about rangers and amount of time - timing and days.

Rangers and enforcement is cheaper than replanting hillsides every 10 years and the cost of $350,000 and/or adding alum to clear the Pond. Abutters have been testing water quality for years at no cost. Need to create a plan for testing going forward involving Town and interested individuals or, perhaps Teachers as part of

9:00 - adjourned.