WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY APRIL 16, 2021 HELD VIA ZOOM 4 PM

Meeting called to order at 4:04PM.

Attendees: WPAC Committee Members Carmen Jaquier Chair, Beth Kelly and Jeff Parker

Other attendees included Select Board Rep Jane Hotchkiss, Marya Plasecki and Nancy Crowther

**Purpose of today’s meeting** is to discuss WPAC committee questions and recommendations related to the White Pond Improvement Plan to prepare for a proposed meeting with Kate Hodges, Asst. Town Mgr., Anna McKeown, Recreation Dept., Weston & Sampson, other town officials, and public.

WPAC and attendees discussed specific questions and concerns which are detailed below in no certain order. In addition, WPAC presented a PowerPoint slide show describing the recommendation of the use of a permeable paving system for the proposed beach improvements to allow for better drainage. See attachment 1.

**WP Improvement Plan: Discussion at WPAC special meeting on April 16, 2021**

“Don’t bring me problems, bring me solutions.” Base for WP Advisory Committee regarding WP Improvement Plan is:

- How does it fulfill The Vision document, a town document?
- How does it protect the pond and watershed?

This plan is taking place not just in any piece of land next to a body of water fed by inflow from different sources, but in the vicinity, the watershed, of a unique natural feature, a kettle pond.

- How does this plan affect the watershed and therefore the pond?

**White Pond Watershed** = very undersized, (compared to for example Walden) as WP has houses, paved roads, driveways, walkways and more.

- There is a new lane of impervious blacktop ½ mi. long being installed at the other open end of the pond, watershed. Main open land areas are at Plainfield and Sachem’s end.
- White Pond Watershed has a ratio of 2:1, normal is 30:1. This is why it is so important to avoid any further displacement and disruption.

**PLANS FOR THE BEACH AREA**
Specific questions and recommendations related to the plan are below. WPAC advises that all items in the plan that impacts/changes open land should be based on what is needed for access and enjoyment but nothing that is extra of basic comfortable use and code.

- The **ADA path** for example should be pervious surface, to not diminish water absorption.

- The **benches/seating areas** planned for the size of area with 2-4 benches?
  - Walden has 330 ft. from road to a break in entry way with no resting places.
  - Suggest no benches.
• Three of the areas are 16' X 20' with 12' wooden slat benches on pervious pavers, water goes between pavers to be absorbed. Should at least be on totally pervious surface.

• Pavilion: unnecessary. Already have seating areas where can sit in shade, those new resting areas along path. It is another manmade structure that can deteriorate. For years people have sat at picnic tables in the shade back from the wall at beach.

This was previously removed from the plan. How did it get back in?

• Log play area: unnecessary, manmade construction to deteriorate, available for misuse. When area used for planted material, grows, renews, and adds to water absorption.

• Picnic tables: there were none on the plan but have heard some may be added.
  ➢ If yes, why? How many? Where?

• New switchback concrete area necessary for ADA access from bottom parking, but we suggest the use of the permeable Gravel Pave system. Especially as this is so close to the shore.
  ➢ WP recommends Use of Gravel Pave or similar system.
  ➢ See PowerPoint for photos/description of this system.

• The size of the resting areas, does the Commission on Disability think that size is needed for ADA? Why doesn’t Walden have the same requirements for resting? The Massachusetts disability laws are statewide. Walden may be less of a slope. Marya will investigate if there are any benches at Walden as a comparison. However, these benches are NOT required by code.
  ➢ How many people are at the beach at one time and want to be sitting up away from the pond not looking at the pond? Benches have backs to pond/beach.
  ➢ Suggest they be removed entirely or minimized by number and size.

• Tree Removal/Tree Planting

The plan has had several established trees removed and to have a lot of digging for construction of paths, entry, seating areas, new stairs, etc. which disturbs underground waterways. For example, the pavilion would impact even more trees being removed. If the pavilion not needed, less of an impact.

➢ WPAC suggests recommends that pavilion, number of benches and log play area removed, there is less impact to the Pond and to the removal of more trees.
Note: planting a new of trees is good, but it will be years before they have the deep roots of established trees that can send water so deep into the water table.

- WHO uses WP beach? WHO buys season and day passes?
  - Concord residents! How many times are Concord residents going to read these pedestal signs? Even if the signs are changed at times, entrance is better than more manmade structure on the hillside.
  - Pedestal signs in seating areas. The usual site for signs at nature or historical areas is at the entrances.

W&S and Kate have done other parks and areas by waters, but have they done a job at a kettle pond where there is such a small watershed?

The need of open land is so vital and a kettle pond in deteriorating condition, per Prof. Curt Stager coring report. Preservation is of utmost importance.

In conclusion, White Pond Advisory Committee acting as advocates for the Pond, both the environment and impact on water quality, request that these suggestions and recommendations are considered.

Meeting Adjourned 5:04 PM April 16, 2021