WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY MAY 3, 2021 HELD VIA ZOOM 6 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:09 PM.

Attendees: WPAC Committee Members Carmen Jaquier Chair, Beth Kelly, Cheryl Baggen and Susan Folgar.

Other attendees included Assistant Town Manager Kate Hodges, NRC Delia Kaye, Parks and Rec Anna McKeown, Facilities Ryan Orr, Weston & Sampson Project Consultant Brandon Kunkel, residents Jon Straggas, Jim Ricker, Nancy Crowther, Jerry Frenkil, Joe Rogers and Marya Plasecki.

Town manager Stephen Crane and Select board Jane Hotchkiss joined meeting at 6:27 PM.

Purpose of today's meeting

Was to further discuss WPAC committee suggestions, recommendations and questions to Kate Hodges that are documented in the WPAC Meeting minutes from April 16, 2021 and were also sent to Ms. Hodges via email and are related to the White Pond Improvement Plan.

It was noted at the start of the meeting that White Pond watershed is extremely small (2.1 versus 30:1) and that all the changes need to be carefully considered, so as not to further add to the eutrophication that has been occurring over the past 30 years. Walden maintained their water quality, but White Pond has not. 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.

1. WPAC Carmen Jacquier started off the meeting by stating that Accessibility for ADA was important and stated that the Storm Water Management plan was excellent.
2. Carmen also mentioned that the WP Improvement Plan posted on the “Town Manager Webpage” and dated March 20, 2021 were outdated.
   2.1. Kate responded that the official and most recent plans are posted on the Natural Resources Web page and those are the official and most recent.
3. Permeable versus Impermeable Surfaces: Proposed path was impermeable and WPAC recommends that this needs to be changed to some other type of permeable material such as Gravel Pave to help prevent run-off.
   3.1. Current plan for the stairs = stone dust with granite steps. ADA path is asphalt.
   3.2. Discussion ensued from Ryan Orr that material such as Gravel Pave have a few problems such as weed control and would need periodic maintenance which is a cost consideration.
   3.3. WPAC recommends that despite maintenance, the preservation of the pond is more important as a natural resource for the town.
4. Trees: Discussion about how many trees will be removed and replaced.
   4.1. Delia Kaye noted that NRC requires trees with a diameter greater than 6 inches be tagged and replaced. Anything smaller does not need NRC permission.
   4.2. NRC will be the coordinator of oversight when digging starts. They will also have an environmental monitor on sight.
4.3. WPAC noted that small saplings will take quite some time to mature, and removal of any trees can contribute to run off.

5. Play panels, Composite Logs and other play structures.
   5.1. WPAC asked when these came into the plan. Kate responded that some residents asked for play structures.
   5.2. WPAC members and audience commented that there are parks nearby and a school less than ½ mile away with play structures. Community wants to keep the vision of a natural environment and not add structures such as these.

6. Retaining walls and steep drop offs
   6.1. Residents and WPAC stated that these are too steep and dangerous.
   6.2. Kate and Brandon will investigate and update WPAC.

7. Picnic Tables: Recommend reducing number of tables and size.

8. Discussion of the need for a large flat structure (not a pavilion) in the area where the old restrooms were located.
   8.1. WPAC advises that the planned area is too large and makes no sense. The plans should be adjusted, and the area shrunk.

**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 7:30 PM**