Meeting called to order at 7:06
In attendance: Carmen Jaquier, Beth Kelly, Cheryl Baggen

Minutes for following meetings approved: 3/31/21, 4/16/21, 5/3/21.

Discussion of Beach project

Carmen voiced concern that the Town is not treating the area under development as White Pond watershed -
At a recent NALMS (North American Lake Management Society) meeting she attended, Ken Wagner discussed problems faced managing lakes and suggested the following best practices:
   ● priority is to manage the watershed.
   ● If all influx of nitrates or phosphorus can be managed, then algae load can be limited, but once the influx of nitrates/phosphates exceeds limits of the pond, then algae load will no longer be addressed by managing the watershed and some type of treatment will be required.

Carmen stated based on what she learned at the NALMS meeting, the goal should be that the Town property limit development to 20% of the property.
She stated that given the existing development around White Pond, any further development will have an impact on the quality of the Pond.

Carmen noted that the BFRT will add ½ mile 5 ft wide blacktop - additional impervious surface in the watershed.
She suggested that the WPAC look at the amount of hardscape (Appendix A plan, she noted, only refers to the amount of hardscape in the 100ft buffer and does not include the pavilion.)

Carmen introduced Josh Galper - new member of WPAC who will soon be approved by the Selectboard.

Jane Hotchkiss stated that the Selectboard will consider feedback from the NRC as it is a regulatory body.
She indicated that the Town must provide ADA approved access to the beach, and that although COVID may be considered by authorities, especially as COVID has also resulted in a lack of construction materials, development toward ADA compliance must go forward. Jane
noted that she is not sure how long the Town can operate the beach without an ADA approved plan. She suggested that WPAC send Kate Hodges a letter asking her this question, (with CC to Jane) for complete understanding of the compliance issue.

Beth asked Jane about an updated letter she had sent to the Selectboard about re-stocking for trout - Jane said the Selectboard will get a letter out to the Secretary of Environment.

General questions regarding Beach development:

Is the Town asking for funding for a full buildout?

It would seem that the benches described on the plans may not meet the concerns of the Town’s Commission on Disability as they do not have backs nor hand rails to support people rising to their feet. Consideration should be given to contacting the Commission to determine if they have reviewed the plans as they relate to the benches.

General Discussion about ways to engage groups/individuals regarding the Town’s proposed buildout of the beach property.
Friends of White Pond - can solicit funds and has a newsletter.

Town spent $350,000 for erosion control and yet there is currently no ranger at White Pond preventing people from encroaching on fenced off areas and this may lead, once again, to erosion.
One ranger is stationed at Esterbrook.

Josh noted - Steager report showed that Walden reversed its downward trend in the 1970s, but White Pond continues to decline.

Carminn noted that Bill Walker’s testing shows White Pond is declining in quality each year.

Beth - noted that the Town asks WPAC to review new work in the watershed, yet appears not to consider WPAC’s position on bigger issues, like development of the beach.

Overall concern that few people attend WPAC meetings.

Carmin suggested that BFRT meetings should not be missed, particularly regarding the issue of fencing.
General discussion about how to proceed on the beach buildout is consistent with WPAC’s position that the build should be ADA compliant but otherwise minimize hardscape and removal of trees.

Send link for for Ponderings -

General discussion about how to proceed with testing of White Pond. Could get in contact with Charles River group and a group in Worcester with a testing program. Can talk with them about how they set up the testing. Susan Rask relies on visual siting of algae, but generally does no testing on toxicity. What is the Town’s duty to warn residents?
Suggestion that money would be better spent on testing rather than on play areas.
If Carmen was unable to test, who would be responsible for testing?

Suggestion that WPAC be strategic - consider writing articles for paper and perhaps focus on liability issues.
Meeting adjourned at 8:41.