Meeting called to order at 7:03
In attendance: Beth Kelly, Josh Galper, Jeff Parker, Cheryl Baggen

Additional Concord resident in attendance in person and remote.

Stephen Crane - Town manager
Terri Ackerman
Susan Bates
Jane Prentiss
Ken Miller
Kai Fong
Alice Rosen
Isaiah Irwin
Lucas Irwin
Nick Johnson
Katy Blair
Jim Ricker
Jerry Frankel
Fredy Begin
Steven Ferrey
Arra Avakian
Emmett ?
Anyuu Fong
Kathleen Sills
Howard Loewinger
Paul Kirschen
Suzanne Landridge
Ginga ?
Liz Berk

Minutes of June 30th meeting approved.

REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS:

Beth reached out to Friends of White Pond - contact is Katy Blair and Dr. Bill Walker who established White Pond Google Group but handed it over to Joe Rogers.
It appears that Preserve White Group is connected to White Pond Google Group, but it is not clear who is the administrator of this site.

Josh spoke with Alan Cathcart.
Josh learned that in 2000 White Pond was listed as a priority area for a Town local sewer treatment plan, one of seven. Money was appropriated in 2003 and 2004 for sewage plan expansion in the Town. White Pond was not focused on further as no placement was found for a stand-alone mini-treatment plant. Cathcart remembered that there was some resistance in the neighborhood toward the project. At the time there were still summer cabins that were only used part time and there was a concern that sewage would lead to more development, which has since occurred in any case.

Cheryl contacted Ken Clarkson. Ken informed her that contrary to what he emailed previously, Fish and Wildlife has been routinely stocking Walden Pond with Rainbow Trout. He did not want to be involved with the fish stocking issue going forward, but believes that the best approach at this point is for Town officials to contact the state representatives.

Jane Prentiss - as mentor of the Student action group spoke. Stated that the students have begun to work on the action item identified by Susan Rask (Health Department). Group members are working under Susan’s instructions, to determine the age of identified septic systems.

Communication Discussion
Josh stated the following as an introduction to Stephen Crane as to what activities WPAC has been recently engaged in:

WPAC has been working on updating the White Pond Vision Statement as this was an action requested of the Committee by the Select Board.

In brief, there is a significant overabundance of nutrients going into the Pond that are feeding the algae - 4-5 man made causes - if no action is taken this will result in more closures of the Pond and possible health risks.

Susan Bates was identified as the liaison from the Select Board.

There was a discussion between Select Person Terri Ackerman as to the best ways to present information to the Select Board and Terri suggested that any PowerPoint presentations be brief.

Crane stated that the Town has to do a better job of putting the pieces together - which has not been happening because of all of the various departments engaged in different aspects of managing White Pond. He stated that he intends to get the various parties at one meeting to gather information and create a plan on how to move forward (no date yet as to when this meeting will take place). Crane stated his belief that greater precipitation was the new issue.
and most likely the source of the increase in algae blooms. He suggested that he would prefer to have issues sorted within the various Town departments before meeting with WPAC.

WPAC responded to Crane’s statement about precipitation with a statement that the 2021 summer closures of White Pond should be seen as the new normal. Increased precipitation does not help but more systematic nutrient deposits are leading to the closures, not rainfall.

WPAC agreed to meet with Crane once he had his internal meeting and then WPAC would meet with the Select Board. WPAC voted 3-1 in favor of this plan, with Cheryl Baggen, Beth Kelly and Jeff Parker in support and Galper against.

Comments from attendees:
Ken Miller - is concerned that the state road has a great deal of water coming down and this may be a main source of the nutrients.

Cheryl Baggen - explained the ongoing problem is that the road is owned by the state and has asserted it has insufficient funds to upgrade the road and there are difficulties regarding how best to upgrade the road as the land on either side is not owned by the state. This issue has been considered by the NRC in the past.

Terri Ackerman - stated that the blooms have been happening for some time and that problems will continue unless solutions are found.

Jim Ricker - these issues have been around for some time and is disappointed that the Town has not already coordinated - he thinks that stocking is the main concern and that the Select Board should contact the State Rep. That is one thing that we can get going quickly.

Katy Blair - All groups need to work together - need to talk about testing and mitigation. Town beach is closed and people are angry.

Jerry Frankel - Town needs to come to consensus before talks about remediation; solutions must be based on science. We have several different classes of issues - short terms - how to get word out to people as to the status of Pond. Long term issues (testing and remediation). Recognize that testing will compel us to a long term solution.

Discussion with other groups that want to work on this issue:
Friends of White Pond (Katy Blair) - Have been testing temperature, dissolved oxygen and clarity. This testing has been passed on to Suzanne Langridge and her daughter. Started organizing the collected data on a shared google sheet with Susan, Delia and Kate. Katy feels that photographs should be collected as well. Same deep testing locations for oxygen and clarity starting in 1987 with Bill Walker and Jane. Five years ago the location for testing was changed for the convenience of volunteers conducting the tests. Testing must be done at deep
wells. Consistency in testing will provide information over the long term. Board of Health testing may be different from testing by volunteers. When a volunteer finds algae blooms, volunteers should not be responsible for finding out who to tell.

Friends of White Pond send out Ponderings every now and then discussing issues related to the Pond. It has a small budget which has been used in the past to contribute to cleaning storm strains.

Questions remain as to algae testing - who is responsible, what type of testing is needed other than observations?

DPOA (Nick Johnson) has the goal of long term conservation regarding the beach itself. DPOA is supportive of WPAC.

The White Pond Youth Conservation Group WPYCG
Dover Street Property Owners (email group)

WPYCG - Isaiah Irwin spoke about the work with Susan Rask the group is undertaking.
Kai Fong stated that group members have many interests.
Jane Prentiss set up protocol for work being done on septic information collection with Susan Rask and the Town has been working well with the students, providing teaching opportunities. This is a great example of cooperation between the Town and the community. The Youth Group will present its findings when the work is completed.

**Notice to interested parties regarding algae blooms and health of the Pond**

Stephen Crane suggested that the best way for updates is for residents to sign up for News and Notices. However, individuals noted that the status of the Pond is not routinely included in News and Notices. It was suggested that perhaps an email list can be generated for those interested in getting updates regarding the status of the pond. Stephen will look into this matter.

**WPYCG Update**

Entered a letter into the minutes from 2004 about algae blooms and need for waste water management as a solution to this problem. Electronic copy is attached as Appendix A.

Kai - In the 1980s there were algae blooms - Bill Walker stated that in 1987 citizens group helped with erosion control with supporters providing money and labor.

**Other Business**

Katy Blair: What testing will the Town do and what testing will be expected of volunteers?
Town will follow the DPH guidelines regarding safety and swimmer health.

Jane Prentiss: youth cleaned 58 acres of litter. Worked with Delia Kaye and the facilities department for removal of the trash. What are we going to do about Littering? - Educate, encourage and then fine.
Jim Ricker: significant upcoming events that will have an impact on the Pond. BFRT and additional residents abutting conservation land (Quarry North development).

Stephen Crane stated that the Town is aware of these future events that will have an impact on the Pond. Some changes that are not within town control and how do we plan for great management and care but also resiliency.

Josh Galper stated that the 75% BFRT plan has a real fence in place near the Pond but this has not yet been approved by the Department of Transportation.

Nick Johnson: asked a question about the number of permits issued by the Town for the beach and it was stated that the number of passes issued is slightly lower than was issued prior to Town ownership of the beach.

Jerry Frankel: testing is key and must be the focus. Long term testing (proactive testing) allows the Town to manage the property. Cannot manage if you don’t know what is happening in the Pond. Reactive testing is eColi and algae testing.

Emmet: While walking around the neighborhood he noticed that the drains on roads in White Pond area were filled up with dirt and so couldn’t take any additional water. Was concerned that this matter be resolved.

Beth Kelly: Jonathan Higgins developed a device to collect and measure algae and has talked to Susan Rask. He is coming on July 26, 2021 and will use this new device to survey the Pond. He is hoping to complete sediment and water quality evaluations. Company website is WWW.PPODtech.com

Higgins has a grant for research and development of the device and although disposal is not covered by the grant, he has assured Beth and Susan that he will dispose of algae collected as part of the testing process.

Meeting adjourned.

Appendix A: letter from Judith Sprott to Town of Concord Board of Health on Algae Blooms, March 12, 2004
To: Board of Health
From: Judith Spratt
43 White Ave.

re: White Pond and Local Upgrade Approvals and/or Variances to Title 5

March 12, 2004

I regret that I am unable to attend the March 16 hearings for two properties in the White Pond watershed. However, I would like to contribute some background information about White Pond that may be useful to you.

In the early 1980’s White Pond began to have algal blooms and in 1986 the Town hired Dr. William Walker to do a water quality study of the pond. His study established that phosphorus is the nutrient source for the algal blooms and identified cesspools and septic systems around the pond as a significant human source of excess phosphorus. In 1987, Pond residents created a citizen group, The Friends of White Pond, to do whatever could be done to protect the water quality of the pond from further degradation. For instance, they managed a cooperative septic pumping program for some years and they helped with erosion control projects and other efforts to control surface run-off. They also have been supporters, both with manpower and with money, of a volunteer monitoring program that was begun in the early 1990’s with Dr. Walker’s assistance and with financial help from the Health Department. I am one of the Friends’ volunteers and we test dissolved oxygen levels, phosphorus levels, pH, transparency and other water quality parameters. The data indicate that the pond is holding its own, but the algal blooms continue and last year there was a noticeable population of a new type of algae. Adding any additional effluent that would increase the phosphorus loading near the pond would not be in the pond’s best interests.

When the work on Concord’s Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan began almost five years ago, White Pond was already known as one of the “neediest” areas for off-site wastewater management, primarily because of our small lots and their proximity to the pond. I am a member of the Wastewater Planning Committee and an advocate of the proposed sewering of the White Pond area as proposed in the Plan. I strongly believe that the current plan to sewer the White Pond watershed is the most efficient, practical, cost effective and environmentally sound solution for keeping our wastewater from further degrading the pond. In addition, as a member of the Committee I have seen that neighborhood support for sewering is impacted when property owners invest in new systems and upgrades before the sewer is available. This is another reason for concern about upgrades and/or variances in the White Pond watershed.

I hope the Board will take this information into account as it considers local upgrade approvals and/or variances to Title 5 for properties in the White Pond watershed.

Thank you.