Meeting called to order at 7:00
In attendance: Beth Kelly, Josh Galper, Cheryl Baggen
Not in attendance: Jeff Parker

Additional Concord resident in attendance in person and remote.
Concord Journal Christin Kelley
Select board member Susan Bates
Nick Johnson
Ken Miller
Catherine Clairmont
Marybeth Barker
Jim Ricker
Steve Ferrey
Peggy Yalman
Howard Loewinger
Lara Wilson
Nancy Leland (University of New Hampshire)
Carmen Jaquier
Carol Parker
Susan Andrews
Marya Piasecki
Gina Gargano
Amy Pasley
Ken Clarkson
Alice Rosen
Kai Fong
Richard Pasley
Diane Collins

Minutes of July 28, 2021 meeting approved.
July 14 2021 minutes were amended by Josh to include a letter that the White Pond Youth Conservation recited that was provided by Judith Sprott to Concord Board of Health from 2004.

REPORT ON OPEN ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No information on fertilizer use from Jeff Parker or Delia Kaye to discuss.

Cheryl asked Delia for copies of the fertilizer recommendation document from the Town. Committee agreed to order 100 copies for distribution.
Social media volunteers: Lucas Irwin and Ken Clarkson have volunteered to help with creation of a consolidated web-site for ‘everything’ White Pond. Will update WPAC at the September 25 meeting.

NEW ITEMS

- WPAC APPROVAL OF REMODELING AT 35 SEYMOUR STREET. Steve Ferrey of 35 Seymour Street has asked to enclose his front porch to put in a stairway for attic access. This will create a new functional space with no change to the footprint. WPAC approved the request with the recommendation that gutters be added to a dry well to prevent water run off to pond.
- Action item: Cheryl to send recommendation for approval to Planning Board for a September meeting.

WHITE POND VISION 2021 DRAFT DISCUSSION

This section provides community feedback on the White Pond Vision 2021 Draft document posted on the Town website in early August.

Susan Bates: page 7, more info needed on pumping from Town Well #7.

Ken Miller: on his side of the pond, some cottages have drains that run off down to the soil. Several drains get filled up. Might add something about drains and impact to the pond. For Vision, maybe not enough drains or proper drainage. Pooling means that everything goes down the pond in general. Thoreau Cove erosion from street. Add bullet point about streets, repair maintenance and draining plan.

Lara Wilson: keep drains away from vernal pools and pond. Need to come together as a community to be proactive and have an impact on the pond. Lot of work behind the scenes. Actively thankful that paying attention. Egregious that looking at a pond at eutrophication. Very concerned about what happens if no attention. The 2021 document is less about recommendations and is now a need for the Town to make a stand – these are Action Items.

Nancy Leland, affiliate faculty at UNH, center for freshwater biology and ecotoxicology: working with Carmen Jaquier on monitoring for the last four years according to an EPA plan on cyanobacteria. Fish populations could be a variable impacting the pond. Carmen’s samples can give value-add information on plankton in response to the fish populations and the dynamics of the cyano populations. Make a push for looking for more closely at the fish population and source of nutrients to the pond.
Nancy is working for Jon Higgins on monitoring effectiveness of A Pod system. Carmen trying to hand off monitoring and have it continue in the future as a town project. Nancy wants to empower us/Town to take on monitoring and decision making on our own. Better data mean better management decisions.

Nancy’s direct experience of Cape Cod for last five years shows that juvenile Alewife are an important influencing factor on pond health. If that variable is removed (removing predation on zooplankton), there is a lot of literature on that – misecosim studies. Zooplanktons do better without fish.

Beth Kelly: asked Nancy Leland and Jon Higgins to attend Sept 25 meeting for an update on the A Pod. Higgins notes that he can help nurture zooplankton in the A Pod and protect the zooplankton from fish predation.

Catherine Clairmont: ESS report of 2017 made recommendations that were never followed up. Important to recognize the duplication. The Town knew this. How to address the fact that the recognition of the need is not being met when there are solutions. Town should be proactive. Idea of aeration not in our report. Suggests need to look at Town resistance and the problem.

Beth Kelly: asked for more time for Nancy Leland to talk about the impact of the A Pod project. Called for appreciation to the Youth Group for their inventory of sewers and septic systems. All very helpful.

Nick Johnson: The purpose of the Vision 2021 document is to compel a new relationship with the Town to work together to figure out what’s going on and to act fast. Starting now, need to address the problem. Not just about people living around the pond.

Jim Ricker: what happens with years of data gathering? Different opinions at the Town about what to do. Noted that there are alternatives to sewage to control phosphorous and nitrogen, very new stuff, and provided a three page handout of a system that claims nitrogen reduction and phosphorous elimination.

Beth Kelly: A Pod research can find hot spots for cyano, A Pod device has different sizes and can be moved around.

OTHER BUSINESS

Josh Galper proposed that WPAC hold a meeting on September 8, 2021 to organize volunteers per accordance with Open Meeting Laws and to discuss WPAC submitting a proposal to the Concord Preservation Committee for funds for testing and continuation of A Pod activities. The motion was approved unanimously.
Volunteers are sought to help support:

- Trout restocking
- Fertilizer management
- Data organization and encouragement of testing by town and volunteers
- Road paving and drainage
- Other committee liaisons
- Water quality testing
- Audit committee of Town spending on pond and beach projects
- Community emails and information sharing (in process)
- Sewage treatment or alternatives

Josh Galper proposed a motion:

That the Town of Concord must not allocate further money, and must stop spending money, on the beach development project immediately, other than drainage to support the health of the pond. Spending must not restart until there are active testing, water management and people management plans in place. To continue spending money on the beach project while White Pond continues to degrade is otherwise a waste of taxpayer money.

The motion was approved unanimously following discussion and refinement of the specific language. The approved motion was sent to the Select Board with cc’s to Town management.

Meeting adjourned 8:38PM.