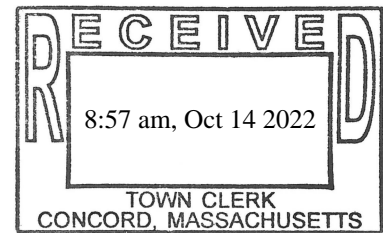


White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
9/28/22



Meeting called to order at 7:01

Advisory Committee members in attendance: Josh Galper, Beth Kelly, Jim Ricker, Jeff Parker, Cheryl Baggen

Minutes of August 19, 2022, meeting approved.

Selectboard's decision to temporarily suspend the WPAC and create a White Pond Task Force

Select Board Member Mary Hartman stated that in May, the Selectboard decided it wanted to update the WPAC charge and reset the relationship between the Town and WPAC, particularly as the Town now owned the beach associated with White Pond and some bad feelings had arisen.

Mary is recommending to the Select Board that WPAC be suspended and instead, a White Pond Task Force will be created. Mary spoke with over a dozen people, including prior committee members, members of the Selectboard, and Town staff, including the Town Manager, prior to making this recommendation.

When asked to distinguish between the WPAC and a Task Force, Mary explained that the Task Force would be time bound and would not have any other responsibilities.

Josh stated that he found this to be a setback for White Pond, and opined that it was not realistic that the Board would find people of the status stated in the new Charge. He believed that any findings by such a Task Force would be duplicative of the current Vision Statement submitted by the Committee. Furthermore, he stated his belief that by creating a Task Force, an avenue of communication between the Town and concerned town members would be eliminated and during the year the Task Force was in place, no work would be done to protect the Pond. Josh stated his plan to resign from WPAC after today's meeting and indicated that he will be looking to support Friends of White Pond.

Mary stated that the Selectboard was looking to prioritize the actions needed to protect the Pond.

Beth stated that the Vision statement had, in fact, prioritized the best ways to protect the Pond, with elimination of septic systems as the number one source of nutrient loading, but given that

solving that problem would take an extensive amount of time, WPAC then focused on less urgent but simpler items that might have some benefit.

Jim stated that he will look at creating a history of the committee

Quarry North Road Application for Special Permit - 48Y Fitchburg Turnpike also known as Rookery Lane

Beth authored a letter approved and signed by WPAC to the ZBA, outlining concerns about water quality due to the additional septic systems associated with the development. WPAC recommended that the new development utilize the newly created sewer system created for the Quarry North/Cold Brook Crossing comprising 274 dwellings. If that was not possible, WPAC encouraged the use of nitrogen / phosphate reducing septic systems. The developer's lawyer, William Henchy, responded to WPAC by simply denying water quality would be affected. His response included drawings that were over 3 years old and did not include any new maps with the most recent development, contours and any potential changes due to the impact of the land changes.

WPAC believed the response from Mr. Henchy was insufficient. Beth, with assistance, drafted a response to Mr. Henchy's above letter to be provided to ZBA. As a courtesy, this new letter was sent to Ms. D. Kaye of the NRC for comment prior to sending to the ZBA. Ms. Kaye responded that if Title V requirements are met, that they are sufficient.

Josh moved that this letter be sent to ZBA from WPAC, to be forwarded to the Attorney representing the developer. Motion was unanimously approved.

Fish Stocking

Beth stated that the Town received a response from Mr. Todd Richards of MA Fish and Game stating that there was not enough data to support not stocking Rainbow Trout. The F&G letter also stated that White Pond had been stocked in Spring 2022 with Rainbow Trout.

Beth challenged this statement, as in fact the Fish & Game website stated that White Pond was NOT stocked with Rainbow in the Spring of 2022 ([see link here](#)). WPAC and more recent scientific publications support the theory that rainbow trout may in fact have a impact on cyanobacteria blooms as they compete for zooplankton which help keep cyanobacteria in check.

As WPAC will no longer be active, Beth drafted a letter in response to Mr. Richards of Fish and Game stating these facts, along with the more recent scientific data to support and again requested that White Pond not be stocked with Rainbow. Especially in light of the fact that this summer the Pond was safe for swimming the entire season.

Tania Galius asked whether the Town was required to stock the pond. It was explained that the Pond is owned by the State and it makes the decision regarding stocking.

Town Committee liaisons

No reports

Jim summarized the septic/sewage committee conclusion that sewage is the real answer for long term improvement of White Pond water quality. He stated his feeling that there is a growing interest in the Town to adding sewers to portions of the Town.

Mary has only heard interest in adding sewage for assisted living facilities near prison.

It was reported that the Middle School Committee intends to install sewage with improved nitrogen retention.

7:46 meeting concluded.