

application. In September, the \$500,000 FY2009 State-wide Transportation Enhancement funds were awarded to complete the design of Phase 2A. The BFRTAC continues to work with the State planning organizations in an effort to obtain the \$500,000 FY2010 Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds for completing the design of Phase 2C.

The BFRTAC participated in meetings with representatives from the other trail communities in an effort to achieve some commonality for certain trail aspects. The BFRTAC provided input on trail logo design, trail rules and guidelines, mile markers, town line boundaries, and trail amenities. In August, Phase 1 (6.8 miles) of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail opened to the public in Lowell, Chelmsford, and Westford.

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE



*James Lyon, Chair; George Barnard, Fred Lingren,
Julie Melbin Arra Avakian*

The White Pond Advisory Committee (WPAC) was established in 1973 as an advisory and liaison committee to review and analyze the concerns of the White Pond watershed and play a leadership role in acting as steward for the pond and its environs. White Pond was described by Thoreau as the “Gem of the Woods.” Today, it remains a prime Town resource for passive recreation and fishing.

Water Quality

The WPAC works with the Friends of White Pond (FOWP) in regards to water testing and helping obtain funding for increased water-quality monitoring. This

would include phosphorous testing, quantification of aquatic vegetation, and a survey of erosion sites on the shoreline. FOWP has been conducting regular water quality tests of clarity and dissolved oxygen on a volunteer basis.

Erosion Control

The WPAC worked closely with the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) this past year in identifying critical erosion areas contributing to the degradation of water quality. Water bars, fencing and signage have been added to key erosion areas to help minimize this problem. The WPAC looks forward to working further with the DNR and continuing this approach.

White Pond Reservation

Many efforts have evolved over the years from the Committee’s concern about the Town-owned property known as White Pond Reservation. It is located on the southwest shore of the Pond, extending back over forty acres of woods and trails to the Sudbury border. While it has been proposed before, there is currently no management plan in place for this spectacular property since its acquisition by the Town in 1992. The WPAC continues its working relationship with the DNR to encourage the proper use of this area, along with Town officials promoting this valuable resource to its residents.

Comprehensive Pond Management Plan

The WPAC has completed a Community Preservation Act (CPA) application for a comprehensive pond management plan with the Town. The application is for a plan that would provide baseline data on the health of the pond, a program for maintaining the ongoing water quality, quantify issues associated with private land ownership within the White Pond watershed, and a position on the recreational uses and limitations of the Pond. The Town has made this application on behalf of the WPAC and is being carried out by the DNR. The WPAC feels this application is of the utmost importance to ensure that White Pond and its watershed will maintain its clear waters for the enjoyment of future generations.

Building and Renovations in the White Pond Area

A continuing responsibility of the WPAC is to work with the Building Commissioner and other Town Committees in review and advice in regards to new construction (e.g., additions, landscape changes, etc.) in the White

Pond Watershed to ensure that the health of the pond and its environs is preserved. A number of these reviews were performed and the committee approved each with a quorum. Of particular concern to the WPAC is any activity that can have an adverse affect on the quality of the Pond water.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)

The WPAC has been actively involved in the discussions surrounding the BFRT, to ensure that the Pond is properly protected given that the proposed trail passes closely to White Pond. The WPAC is working with the Town's Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and other groups such as Concord-based Friends of Rural Trails and the Friends of the BFRT to elevate awareness of the impacts of the trail surface, trail construction activities, and increased visitor traffic on the health and aesthetics of the Pond and on the wildlife corridor.



Water testing on White Pond

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

John Bemis, Chair
Jim Catterton
Dan Giurleo
Jenn Verrill
Jim Wayman

Since formation as a Town Committee, the Agricultural Committee has worked to promote agriculture in Concord.

This year's growing season was productive but not normal, whatever that is these days. Spring was long, cold and wet, offset by a lovely warm autumn that allowed harvest well into November. The disastrous tomato "late blight" struck very locally, in some areas unusually early,

in others late, and in some not at all.

Ag Day – The Committee sponsored a fourth farmer's market festival in September on the Milldam, with a good turnout and good sales, but held in a pretty steady rain. "Ag Day" remains popular with townspeople and visitors, and worthwhile for growers. We do not plan to host a regular, weekly, market because so many growers in Town have farmstands. We note that there is interest in Town for a more regular and expanded market.

Guide to the Farm Stands of Concord – We are continuing to distribute this informative brochure. It is a useful guide for residents and visitors alike.

The second Stone Soup Dinner featured Concord-grown produce prepared by Concord chefs. It was even better than the first one. The event was held in September on the grounds of the Buttrick Mansion at Minute-man National Historical Park. A subcommittee of the Agricultural Committee consisting of Jim Wayman, Jen Verrill and Dan Giurleo and several other citizens planned the event and made it happen. Many hands were involved in food preparation and service. About 340 folks ate very well and had a neighborly, convivial evening. The Ag Committee encourages other groups in Town to also sponsor harvest parties that help celebrate community and our local bounty.

Ammendolia Property–This agricultural parcel was purchased by the Town a few years ago as a site for ball fields, but the wet nature of this land makes it unsuitable. The Committee took a look at agricultural uses for this property, but we have not gotten very far.

Through the work and persistence of a group of neighbors interested in gardening, with some help from the Ag Committee, Delia Kaye and particularly Bill Kenney, the East Quarter Farm Community Garden was established on a portion of the property. Bill Kenney also farmed a portion of the land. The tillable land was quite overgrown, and Bill and his John Deere tractor did a remarkable job of bringing the fields back.

Agricultural Drainage Ditches – The Committee made little real progress in addressing the various problems associated with Concord's ancient and inconsistently maintained system of agricultural drainage ditches. We will invite the Director of Public Works to one of our meetings in 2010 to discuss ditches.