



**E-MAILED**

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White Pond Advisory Committee

Recommendations to the Select Board in regard to the needs  
of the newly acquired former White Pond Associates property

February 22, 2019

Composed during the fall of 2018, final amendment at January 30, 2019 meeting

1. We recommend an engineering study be completed to address the boat ramp drainage and runoff into the pond. Recommend new drains be placed higher up and sized appropriately. Also modify or add modifications to the steep slope and along the sides of the black top which channels runoff into the pond. The ESS report cited this area as having the most land-based runoff. At heavy rains and snow melts, even with the help of the large broken rock at end of the blacktop, deep channels are gouged out of the land at the end of the blacktop and in the nearby sand of the beach area. This regularly forms plumes of soil fanning out into the pond at that location.
2. The every other year clean out of the exiting basins on the black topped boat launch, by the DPW needs to be continued.
3. The new ADA compliant walkway and any new stairs need to be designed to avoid any runoff into the pond.
4. We recommend composting toilets for the new facilities, like what is planned for the Gerow property.



5. We strongly recommend agricultural restrictions for the existing fields on Plainfield and Powder Mill Roads. These fields, a very important part of the undersized watershed of the pond, should be maintained as passive meadows and avoid soil disturbance.

\*There is an accompanying addendum with more exact information in regard to this recommendation.

6. We recommend the restriction on swimming at Sachem Cove be continued and the rangers regularly patrol that area.

7. Clear signage stating the town policies on dogs, horses, fishing, and fires is necessary especially with the opening of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and additional use of the whole pond area by town residents and others. The signage should be placed in different areas around the pond.

8. There needs to be a clear plan for people management through effective enforcement of town policies and regulations in all areas around the pond, for example- parking regulations. Resources for the ranger program and for police patrols need to be continued.

9. In the coming years, with the new bike trail, with the bike sharing program in Concord and other towns, and with the new arrangement of beach passes, there will be people from places other than Concord accessing the pond area and a plan is needed for getting pertinent information to them via the internet and other means.

10. The Town should work with Natural Resources and the state to ensure that the fish stocking program is appropriate for the current conditions of the pond which can change year to year.

11. Trash receptacles need to be maintained in different locations around the pond through three seasons.

12. A clear communication plan needs to be in place to communicate any dangerous algae blooms or other unhealthful water conditions via temporary signage, the internet, and any other means that can be accessed by residents and people who are not Concord residents.

13. The committee believes that converting all Town Reservation land to Conservation land would give the highest protection for the water quality and preservation of the pond going forward.

14. The town needs to continue the water testing currently done through the Health Department for a publicly used beach and recommend that testing continue to be done in tandem with the same testing required at Dover Street Beach. The cost sharing is advantageous to both entities.

15. The town needs to conduct an education of the pond staff to identify any potential danger from algae bloom. And if bloom is seen, to notify the Health Dept., have a clear plan of action to be taken for the safety of anyone using the water recreationally, and a clear course of steps to take for closing the beach.

16. We agree with the newly posted dates of the Preseason and Regular season and the times of use.

17. The town and Natural Resources should continue on a regular basis some of the more refined water testing that ESS conducted during their work.

18. We think the town and Natural Resources should explore if there is a benefit in regard to contamination from runoff by eliminating parking on the lower level of the black top boat launch, except for handicapped parking and boat drop off. And make parking allocation elsewhere for those who come to fish.

19. White Pond should stay involved, as it has been for the last 4 years, in the nationwide national award-winning EPA Cyanobacteria Work Group monitoring program headed by Hilary Snook at the EPA lab in N. Chelmsford, MA. The program has a wealth of information, assistance, and connections with other monitors of ponds, lakes, and rivers around MA and across the whole country.

20. The longtime water monitoring work of Dr. Bill Walker and his team should be continued and perhaps the town should undertake a cost-effective water quality monitoring plan including Secchi disk transparency and oxygen content testing. This could be taught to the lifeguards, rangers, or others who are employed at the pond. It also could be something that Rivers and Revolutions might be interested in undertaking, as well as the EPA testing program. White Pond is an exceptional resource of the hometown of students at CCHS.

21. There should be a review, before and during the season, of surrounding streets in regard to parking and seek appropriate parking restrictions if found to be needed. Again, there will be out of town use for the beach, pond area, and rail trail that could make for differences from previous years.

22. We recommend bike racks be installed at or near the parking area. With the new bike sharing program in the area and other surrounding areas, and the rail trail, there could be more people accessing the area by bikes.

23. We think there should be walk arounds of the pond, beach, and surrounding area before the season opens by the different committees involved with the White Pond area– Natural Resources, Recreation, DPW, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Trail Committee, and White Pond Advisory. This would serve to inform all about the different issues, plans, changes, work, and concerns of each committee.

Also, these committees should have liaisons that interact to keep all committees informed and up to date with the whole area. With the town acquiring the former WPA land, the town now has the ability to work in a holistic way in regard to the whole area surrounding White Pond.

See next page for \* Addendum to #5

ADDENDUM to #5 of White Pond Advisory Committee's Recommendations to the  
Select Board - February 2019

WPAC strongly recommends the fields at Plainfield and Powder Mill Roads be planted and maintained as native meadows.

White Pond has an extremely undersized watershed and only 2 areas of it, the town and conservation lands at Sachems Cove end and the fields, formerly the property of White Pond Assoc., are undeveloped.

The watershed of a water body is very precious as it is the filter and the major resource of water for that body of water.

The best use of the watershed is for the ground to be stable, undisturbed, with growth that helps absorb water deeply and hold the earth in place with far reaching interconnected root systems .

When the earth is undisturbed, the fungal and microbial colonies in the soil flourish and enrich the soil and the water absorbing ability of that soil. Plants can eventually leach phosphorus out of soil which has been farmed and fertilized.

Most of White Pond's watershed area is developed with homes with septic systems. The 2018 presentation to our committee by Susan Rask, Director of the Concord Health Dept., showed how no matter how well a septic system is maintained, no matter how favorable our fast draining sandy soil is, all waters eventually enter the pond.

For years those fields were tilled and farmed and fertilized. White Pond water has a higher phosphorus content than is best. Water from those fields through runoff or absorption enters the pond.

The oxygen deprived deep depths of the pond have increased in volume over the decades, per Dr. Walker's records. When oxygen deprived water sits next to the sediment, it allows iron to leach from the sediment and that increases the phosphorus content of the water. When the water is well oxygenated at the bottom, the iron stays bound in the sediment.

White Pond already has a strike against it in that the water in this area has a naturally high iron content.

Concord has many areas that are currently farmed. There are many opportunities for farmland but there is only one immovable area of land that is the watershed of White Pond.

We recommend the fields be planted and maintained as meadows of New England native plants, shrubs, and trees.

This could be a wonderful resource for residents and others. There could be narrow paths mowed, changing from year to year to not compact the soil. Along these paths wooden benches could be scattered for many to enjoy the surroundings- the native plants and flowers, the birds, bees, and insects that would be attracted by food provided by these plantings that grow and bloom at the right times for the native birds and insects here.

The beekeepers of Concord could keep a row of beehives in front of the line of trees backing on Granby Road. They could give beekeeping talks and demonstrations there for school groups and adults, educating and encouraging others to beekeeping. Help a species that is endangered worldwide and so necessary for much of the produce we consume.

This could be a destination for school groups to learn the ecology of a meadow, why they are important to wildlife and the climate of an area. Learn the native plants, birds, insects of their home.

These meadows can be a teaching tool for adults. They can learn about an alternative that benefits the climate, an alternative to lawns which uses less water

once established, no chemicals, adds to the food sources for populations of birds and insects, and improves the climate of the area where they live.

They could see what could be done with a portion of their current lawns which puts less strain on the water resources of Concord. The water used in Concord spikes during the growing season and much of that is from watering lawns. Encouraging even a small part of a lawn to be changed to a meadow town wide, can make a difference to the town and its climate.

The planning, preparing, and planting of these fields could be a school project as was done at Hayward Meadow.

These fields could be a wonderful and notable destination for visitors and vacationers in Concord and for bike trail users.

When this was mentioned to a member of the Pollinator Committee, and a member of the Climate Action Committee, and members of 2 other committees, the idea was met with great enthusiasm. The Pollinator Committee member exclaimed, "this is what we are all about."

WPAC sees this as the best use of this new town land and can see no drawbacks or negatives of this proposal. And we ask the Select Board to carefully and thoughtfully review this recommendation.