

West Hill Pond Association Annual Meeting Minutes

7PM August 19, 2014

Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

Present: Skip Sly, Tom Sloss, Dan Jeram, Mary Hourdequin, Jim Waters

Absent: Bill Adamsen, Dave Boyajian, Larry Gauvain, Frank Galliher

1. Call to order. Sly

2. Approval of prior year's minutes --- Sly/Hourdequin.

Motion to approve, seconded and approved

3. Water Rights Committee report-- Sly

Fall drawdown plan - ***2-foot*** drawdown to occur as planned in mid October

Gate House Maintenance door repair/painting.--Galliher.

Gate house maintenance has not yet occurred, but Skip met w. Frank to discuss. Will occur after Frank's vacation. Door to be repaired, trash gate straightened and gate house power washed.

4. Weed Mgmt and H&H update---Sly

Weed Inspection program---Hourdequin

Skip reported that three days of weed management were done last fall. New Hartford paid for one of the days and Skip hopes to get an extra day again this year. Dan Jerram agreed that town could contribute again.

George Knoecklein did water sampling recently. His results guide weed harvesting since he drags a GPS behind him to target weed locations. George commented that every lake is experiencing more weed growth this year.

Mary provided an update on invasive weed monitoring efforts at the north end state boat launch. Seven new volunteers were trained by the DEEP on June 21, five of whom were willing to volunteer. Unfortunately, monitors' official tee shirts were not received until early August delaying volunteers' start. Only a few of previously 27 trained volunteers responded to emails encouraging them to volunteer again this year. Thus, we had only a total of 10 people who actually did volunteer and coverage at busy times was thin since the DEEP has also reduced the paid monitor's time at West Hill.

Tom Sloss asked whether boats coming out of the lake are inspected. He said that a Marston Trails waterfront home owner has noticed weeds being "transplanted" to this individual's waterfront property by boats. Tom noted that weeds seem to be spreading. Is weed harvesting really the most effective strategy? Are there other alternatives to combat this problem? Skip responded that we are holding our own, but not progressing necessarily. Different kind of weeds--invasives-- in Bantam. Skip talked about using aquatic screens this year. Our limnologist supports suction harvesting in West Hill.

Mary asked for suggestions to increase volunteer interest and motivation in invasive weed monitoring efforts. Several ideas were generated: volunteer teams, poll volunteers as to why not repeating monitoring from year to year, increase ways to recognize volunteers-- acknowledgement on web site, keep lake as nice as it is.

*Question was raised as to how boats are cleaned per NYS or other protocols?
Workcoeman retired volunteers might possibly be interested in weed monitoring training. Also, consider moving date of training to early July.
Jo Jacksons might be interested in promoting weed monitor training.
Question re what commercial organizations can use lake and what are parameters?
Would state have to approve commercial operations for paddle boarders, etc?*

5 Storm Water Management update...Adamsen (absent)

Skip reported that LAPOA did follow through to repair storm drain above beach. Dan reported that catch basins on Workcoeman Road have been cleaned out by NH crew. He also reported that the town is doing bid requests for drainage work on Davis Road. Wetlands Commission concerned re inputting more sand on Brodie Beach, but Dan reported being able to do so. Engineer has recommended changes to remediate runoff from parking area which erodes beach sand. Dan described proposed changes (rain garden). Skip asked if proposal will be open to public at a hearing. Skip says there has been a good, open discussion thus far. Dan indicated that Inland Wetlands Commission will have to make decision.

Storm water runoff: Beach/Pond Road group will talk with Roger Hulbert re water runoff down Pond/Beach Road. Will get feedback from meeting. Bill has done a spreadsheet re inflow problem areas. Phosphorous is principal issue in terms of tipping point for water bodies, (e.g. Toledo).

6. Web-site update---Adamsen

Skip reported that WHPOA website seems to be working well.

8. Membership/fundraising—Sly

Skip reported that he has received some voluntary contributions thru Brenda talking up quality of lake at NorthEnd store. He also did some boat tours of the lake for WHBC members who made voluntary contributions as well.

9. Treasurers Report/budget—Sly

Skip reviewed income and expenses for this year, per budget handout. Five thousand dollars that had been budgeted for improvements to Penkins Rd. so it could serve as an emergency spillway was not spent as the town of Barkhamsted did the work at no cost to the association.. Assuming that outside contributions and current dues remained at current levels we would have surplus funds. A number of ideas for using those funds were discussed but but will need to be further studied before any specific use can be decided.

Mary asked whether Pond Assoc could seek other funding sources, such as Farmington River Coordinating Committee, since West Hill Pond is part of watershed. The answer is yes if we could define a very specific need/use of the funds.

Dan discussed road resurfacing issues. Town will repair part of West Hill Road. Skip asked about storm water issues identified in study; Dan said town doesn't have money this year, due to unplanned expenses based on rough winter.

Budget approved as presented.

10. Election of officers----Sloss

Tom presented nominations for officers for next year. Slate approved as presented.

President - Skip Sly

VP - Tom Sloss

Treasurer - Skip Sly

Secretary - Mary Hourdequin

11. Old/New Business

Weed removal starting tomorrow for next three days. Target areas: south end of lake, teddy bear, north of Brodie.

Mary suggested we consider holding a separate meeting to discuss Strategic Plan.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM