

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes of 8/3/17 meeting

Present: Cindy Mitchell, Chuck Hodgkinson, Prudy Burt, Rez Williams

Absent: Tim Boland, Kristen Fauteux, Selena Roman

Also Present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy

Minutes of the 6/26/17 meeting were not available for approval.

The committee continued its review of Draft #8. Items mentioned included getting all water flow measurement throughout the report in cubic feet a second. Additionally, Bill suggested including the conversion formula to gallons a minute (One cubic foot per second = 450 gallons per minute) at first mention of water flow measurement in the report. Bill suggested that on Page 4, we break down the first bullet under 'Mill Brook Watershed Characteristics', identifying how much of the 2,213 acres is protected open space versus land still available for development.

The majority of the discussion at this meeting consisted of how to draft conclusions and recommendations. Members present agreed that these will come from our key findings, already identified in the draft report. Further, that we use these to identify threats, such as withdrawals and diversions; Bill also suggested language explaining how increased development equals increased nitrogen/nutrients. Prudy suggested incorporating language from the Wetlands Protection Act, specifically from the section on Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, to reinforce how important protecting these resource areas is. Prudy also suggested reaching out to John Christensen at this point, specifically about withdrawing and diverting water for fire suppression, and get his input on alternatives to this practice. The main tenor of this discussion was to present these ideals in a positive way, not a punitive one. This will include educating the public about how even small efforts on an individual basis can incrementally improve the health of the watershed. While a concrete list did not result from this preliminary discussion, members present gained some consensus on how we will proceed.

Next meeting is on August 17 at 5 p.m.

Submitted by Prudy Burt

Approved 11/2/2017