

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes for 1/9/17 meeting, 5 p.m.

Present: Selena Roman, Kristen Fauteux, Prudy Burt, Chuck Hodgkinson, Tim Boland, Cindy Mitchell and Rez Williams

Absent: Nancy Huntington

Also present: Kent Healy and Bill Wilcox

As recorded in previous minutes (11/28) Prudy reached out to Paul Goldstein and Tim Simmons, both veteran invertebrate experts familiar with the island, if they might be willing to look at the invertebrates collected by BiodiversityWorks in 2015 and complete identification of same down to genus. She reported back to the committee that both Paul and Tim recommended reaching out to Greg Whitmore who did a study of Mill Brook invertebrates in 2007 during his tenure at The Trustees of Reservations island office. Greg is willing to come to the island to examine the collection and asked that the committee cover his expenses to do so; gas mileage from New Hampshire and a round trip ferry ticket, as well as a stipend of \$25 per hour. Prudy has a place for him to stay while on island. Prudy asked that the committee authorize this expenditure. Motion to do so and all voted in favor.

Chuck presented a draft report for the committee's consideration. Cindy reviewed our initial scope of work from the selectmen when this committee was formed. She indicated that, in hindsight, developing a draft management plan (included in the original scope of work) might have been ambitious. We could issue a report on this last year of study- ESS Group, BiodiversityWorks, The Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition and others, identify remaining data gaps and outline next steps. These would include instituting ongoing data collection and identifying the appropriate board or entity for same. The committee discussed the need for educating voters of the need for setting aside money each year for monitoring of our water resources and for implementing actions that benefit these resources.

After some discussion of what committee members want in the final report, Selena and Prudy offered to work on the next draft (#4) for the committee's review at our January 23 meeting.

Draft minutes of the 12/12/16 meeting were approved without comment/correction, all in favor.

Past meeting minutes for 1/12/15, 1/16/15 and 4/6/15 will be reviewed at our next meeting on January 23, 2017.

Cindy reviewed the timeline in advance of annual town meeting (ATM) in April. The deadline for the warrant is February 2. The committee will think about whether it wishes to hold a public forum before ATM, whether there is any need for a warrant article, and how we will distribute our final report, hard copies available, on the town website or both.

Under new business, Prudy shared a grant funding opportunity through the Ma. Division of Ecological Restoration for culvert upgrades and replacements. The conservation commission will be discussing this at their meeting on Tuesday, January 10. Culverts under North Road for both Witch Brook and the unnamed tributary above Priester's Pond are candidates for this grant.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted by Prudy Burt