

Minutes

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee January 25, 2016

Present: Chuck Hodgkinson, Cynthia Mitchell, Tim Bolland, Prudy Burt, Kristen Fauteux, Selena Roman, Rez Williams. Nancy Huntington by phone in.

Also Present: Kent Healy

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chuck Hodgkinson.

Agenda Item #1 - Review progress to date and remaining tasks: a. ESS Group

Chuck presented the update.

Carl has all but the 6th sample from Sheri Caseau. He will follow up with her on the collection. Once that information is available he will prepare the draft report for Committee review. The budget for the project includes 3 trips to the island.

Committee discussed reserving 2 of these for a committee review of the draft report and a future public forum.

This lead to discussion of Agenda Item #3 – April Town Meeting and communications plan.

The Committee reviewed the idea of a written or oral report for the town meeting. It was agreed there is time to decide. We have two months. The Committee agreed there is no need for a warrant article at this time. The written report to the town is done.

The Committee discussed the need for a public forum for updating purposes and to establish the fact that our watershed monitoring should be supported by the town as a line item to review annually. This work will cost something going forward whatever the actions are that are determined by the study. There will be ongoing stewardship and CPA funds may be a resource for funding.

The Committee moved back to Agenda Item #2 – Discuss The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Sampling Report 2012

The Committee reviewed the report, noting that it was performed in September of 2012. There was access to new areas for this study and it offers a good overview. Many of the recommendations have been accomplished. Discussion ensued on how this information could be used. Agreed it has a big educational objective, helps define the importance of the brook to the great pond, and offers a good definition of the brook system within the watershed. The combination of this data with the BioDiversity report data, particularly sample site comparisons, will help create a broader, consistent data base.

Discussion continued around point specific items and definitions regarding fish concentrations, stocked vs. wild fish, cold water resource definition, other factors at play on

fish populations like habitat and food, mitigation of problems in pockets of the system that can affect brook inhabitants. It was agreed that the Committee will let the data drive us.

The Committee moved on to Agenda Item #4 – Correspondence

Cynthia reported that all bills are paid to date. Chuck noted that approximately \$7700 remains in the budget for the ESS work yet to be billed. Of that \$2700 is for the 3 meetings.

Item #5 – Meeting Minutes & Item #6 - Old Minutes

The 11/17/14 minutes were obtained from John Christensen and approved as amended. Selena will get them to Tara for posting.

The 10/26/15 minutes were approved as amended and Kristen will get them to Tara for posting.

Chuck will make sure Tara posts the cancelled meetings as cancelled on the town's website.

There being no Item #7 - Old business the committee moved to Item #8 New Business.

Prudy reported that Luanne Johnson of BiodiversityWorks said that Jen Rand had pointed out that the equipment BioDiversityWorks purchased belong to the town, but to what use? The committee discussed whether the cost for the equipment was part of the contract for the report and expressed their desire for BioDiversityWorks to keep the equipment. Prudy confirmed the conservation commission had no use for it. The committee sees it as the same as the cost for the bottles and shipping for the water samples. Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to recommend BioDiversityWorks keep the equipment. Chuck and Cindy will notify Jen Rand of the Committees recommendation.

Next meetings are scheduled for February 8 at 5:00PM and February 22 at 5:00PM, both at the library.

Meet adjourned at 5:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Selena Roman