

## Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes of 2/26/18 meeting, approved 4/2/18

Present: Cindy Mitchell, Rez Williams, Prudy Burt, Selena Roman, Tim Boland, Kristen Fauteux.

Absent: Chuck Hodgkinson

Also present: Bill Wilcox

Cindy drafted a submission for inclusion in this year's town report. This was reviewed and approved by members present; Cindy will send to Jen Rand tomorrow.

Draft minutes of the 2/22/18 meeting were approved- Prudy will send to town clerk for posting.

Members present reviewed draft #12, with Cindy making notes of edits/corrections. Bill Wilcox had a few final edits. Prudy will forward this final draft of report to Tisbury Printer for finish formatting and layout. Once that work has been done, Prudy will circulate back to committee members before the next meeting.

Members present continued discussing a draft list of conclusions and recommendations, begun at the 2/22/18 meeting. From the key finding in the Mill Pond bathymetry section of the report, members discussed including several conclusions/recommendations; that bathymetry data indicated no measurable change in water depths at Mill Pond, which in turn indicates no benefit from nor need to dredge the pond; that the town could explore hand pulling of vegetation (*Decadon verticillatus*, a listed species) with Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, as well as invasive species present in Mill Pond; and that the suggested idea of a compromise (Steve Hurley, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) - a pond separate from a free flowing Mill Brook within the existing 2.5 acre site of Mill Pond deserves the same consideration

as both dredging and dam removal have received- specifically including engineering, permitting and environmental considerations.

Addressing withdrawals and diversion north of Mill Pond were viewed by members present as a key opportunity to restore stream connectivity. The word 'fragmentation' or 'fragmented habitat' was suggested as another way to explain how withdrawals, dams- including diversion dams- and perched culverts affect the connectivity of the stream. In particular, that this stream and watershed are connected to the Tisbury Great Pond, with species utilizing both systems at different times of the year.

Next meeting will be on 3/19/18, Polly Hill Arboretum at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Prudy Burt