

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes for 2/22/18 meeting, approved at 2/26/18 meeting

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

Absent: Chuck Hodgkinson

Also present: Bill Wilcox

Members present completed a final review of draft #12, went through and proof read the entire report, Cindy took notes of corrections. She will incorporate and circulate to members via email before the report goes to Tisbury Printer for layout and formatting.

Cindy said that a placeholder for a town meeting warrant article seeking an undefined amount of money for an as-yet undefined scope of work has been pulled- there will be no such warrant article on this year's ATM warrant.

Members began a discussion about conclusions and recommendations. Kristen suggested that we pull these from key findings throughout the report. Members discussed a range of possible items: Future monitoring of water quality; filling data gaps in dissolved oxygen data collection (particularly afternoon readings); investigating the relatively high phosphorus found (sources, soils, etc); ongoing data collection of water flow (working with MA Division of Ecological Restoration to get more complete data over time); investigate instituting a town bylaw which prohibits/regulates water withdrawals, giving a town board such as conservation commission enforcement power over same; having the town act as a clearing house/resource of information for stream restoration projects, including putting private property owners in touch with relevant resources and agencies for assistance; including groundwater monitoring/sampling in future water quality surveys.

Bill Wilcox shared information obtained from Roland Sammy at SMAST- several island streams including Mill Brook, Tiasquam River and Fulling Mill Brook all had high phosphorus results during Ma. Estuaries Project testing several years ago.

Prudy suggested that local conservation groups who hold conservation restrictions on some of the properties which currently enjoy the benefits of existing diversions and withdrawals could help facilitate discussions to help find alternatives to the status quo.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 2/26/18, 5:30 p.m. at Polly Hill Arboretum

Submitted by Prudy Burt