

Town of Ayer
Dam and Pond Management Committee
Meeting Minutes dated: February 27, 2012

Call to order: A meeting of the Dam and Pond Management Committee, was held in Town Hall, Ayer, Massachusetts on February 27, 2012. The meeting convened at approximately 7:11 p.m.

Members in attendance: Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi (Member)
Don Rzasa (Chairman)
Marina Giovannini (Member)
Michele Riggs (Clerk)

Members not in attendance: Dan Nason, DPW Superintendent
Warren Ball, (Conservation Commission designated Member)
Laurie Nehring (Alternate member)
Robert Pontbraind, Town Administrator

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Chairman, and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting.

Motion carried.

Chairman presented the Meeting's agenda to all members in attendance. To ensure proper posting of future meetings of this Committee, Mr. Pedrazzi offered to be responsible for making proper public notification for posting by Town Clerk.

Old Business:

Chairman indicated that Don Nason is soon to be leaving as a Town employee, however, he represented relevant items to this Committee are available in his office for review. Mr. Pedrazzi will obtain these items and notify ' members when they are available for review.

Action Item: Ms. Riggs will reach out to Mr. Pontbraind to ascertain when the Committee's town issued e-mail addresses will be available for communication in accordance with Town policy.

Ms. Giovannini indicated her initial research on COLAP (Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Association, Inc.) identified the group as potentially worthwhile to the Committee's mission.

Action Item: Ms. Giovannini will research potential membership and attendance at COLAP functions and the associated costs of such.

Action Item: Mr. Pedrazzi will research and determine the Committee's access, parameters & utilization of allocated funds.

Mr. Pedrazzi confirmed the existence of written policy by the Conservation Commission at the Fire Station stating the ConComm must file a Notice of Intent with the MA DEP prior to having boards removed from the Balch Pond Dam. It doesn't seem there are any requirements for the board replacement. The delegation of the Fire Department to be responsible for the maintenance and placement of the dam boards may be outdated and the Committee agreed it prudent to research the viability of having the original mechanisms of this dam restored vs continuing with a manual process in order to avoid town liability through vandalism and/or injury to Town employees. If that proves true, research should be performed to determine whether grants such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant could be appropriate and available to the Town.

New Business:

The Committee agreed to begin the formalization of priorities surrounding the identification of risk management opportunities and the creation of a status report of the Town owned and privately owned dams to the Town Board of

Selectmen. Additionally a report surrounding the control of invasive vegetation species within the Town's ponds. Additionally, research into previous and upcoming Town inspections and/or citations, as well as any rules and regulations surrounding dam and pond management, if any, should be completed to assist in the creation of the status reports.

To further educate the Committee:

Action Item: Mr. Rzasa will invite Mr. Patrick Hughes to a Committee meeting as his knowledge base will be helpful to the Committee.

Action Item: Mr. Pedrazzi will contact the Conservation Commission to request information surrounding the 2012 Town Pond treatment schedule.

Action Item: Ms. Giovannini will gather specific town pond information in relation Town meetings and various approvals and monetary allocations.

In reviewing the ConComm's 2005 ACT report, discussions ensued surrounding logistics of obtaining an updated assessment by ACT to ensure continued accuracy if one wasn't already in the works.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment: March 12, 2012 and the Town Hall, Ayer, MA, were fixed to be the time and place of the next regular meeting and the February 27, 2012 meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Clerk
Dam and Pond Management Committee

Date of approval