

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 March 26, 2012. The meeting convened at approximately 7:10 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Chairman, and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting.

Motion carried.

Chairman presented the Meeting's agenda to all members in attendance.

Old Business:

Discussion regarding position replacements in relation to Warren Ball who is no longer with the Conservation Commission, and Don Nason who is in the process of being replaced as DPW Superintendent. No appointments for these positions has been finalized and thus no replacement for the membership positions within the Dam & Pond Management Committee.

This Committee performed an initial review of the materials provided to Mr. Pedrazzi by Mr. Nason in relation to the Dams in town. The consensus is the materials need to be organized and a 1-2 page concise report needs to be created and presented to the BOS.

Action Item: Ms. Riggs, Ms. Giovannini and Ms. Nehring will be attempting to review and organize the materials in order to create a comprehensive and chronological listing of the materials prior to next meeting.

An update to the Flanagan Pond Treatment schedule was obtained from the Conservation Commission by Ms. Riggs and Ms. Giovannini at their meeting last week. Ms. Riggs and Giovannini indicate initial reports to the Conscom revealed the Flanagan Pond water level is still too high for treatment, however, Conscom had not confirmed that information. Additionally, Becky is waiting to hear back from Lycott (the winner of the RPF for this project) to confirm they will honor their costs set forth for the initial treatment of the pond as they indicated they would last year. It was agreed the timing of obtaining the information and associated approvals is extremely time sensitive given the current growth schedule of the ponds plant life/pond vegetation is much ahead of schedule given the extremely warm weather conditions of late. The timing of treatments must coincide with the growth cycle of the plant to be effective. Additionally Becky of Conscom indicated that new permitting may be required for Lycott to be able to treat.

Action Item: Ms. Giovannini will maintain contact with Becky to ensure follow up with Lycott and to request our Committee be placed on the Conscom agenda to discuss various questions we have for them which will enhance our ongoing process.

Action Item: Ms. Riggs will create an initial listing of questions to be presented to the Concom of which this Committee will review and enhance prior to the actual scheduled meeting.

As a follow up to Ms. Giovannini's initial research on COLAP (Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Association, Inc.) and identification of the group as potentially worthwhile to the Committee's mission. Mr. Pedrazzi confirmed with the Town Administrator that our Committee has been allocated \$10,000 to utilize towards our efforts, which would include any potential membership fees to COLAP.

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

Information on the Committee's utilizing town issued e-mail has not yet been received by Mr. Pontbraind as of yet.

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

New Business:

A discussion on how the Committee should move forward in a formal fashion commenced. The end result of this meeting indicated the need for the Committee to attend both a Conscom and a BOS meeting to gather more information and present updates.

In order for this Committee to become more educated a listing of "guest" speakers should start to attend meetings. Future speaker ideas consisted of Mr. Patrick Hughes and specific Members of the Town of Harvard team.

Action Item: Don Rzasz will reach out to try to get Mr. Patrick Hughes again to be our first guest speaker.

Part of the agreement of the Committee to structure our progress included the creation of an education plan on the Pond side of the spectrum. Discussions ensued in the probability of getting some of our messages out either on our own volition or in coordination with the Town's semi-annual water/sewer bills. Other ideas were in relation to providing information through the Town website or on the Town's cable channel which would be cost effective.

Action Item: Ms. Nehring will research viable communication efforts and if funding for such would be available through grants, etc.

The Committee agreed that the creation of a Mission Statement would be prudent and should be presented in the meeting with the BOS to ensure official consent.

Action Item: Ms. Giovannini will perform research on viable language for such and work with Mr. Rzasz in the initial preparation of the Mission Statement. When this Committee is ready Mr. Rzasz will request to be placed on the BOS meeting agenda.

Summary of the structure discussion is that on the Dam side an organization of materials will be performed, a synopsis report will be drafted including a categorization of the Dams and their current status. In relation the Pond side, the Committee will begin researching and creating educational materials regarding water quality and invasive vegetative species to disburse to the community. Additionally, the Committee will sit before the Conscom asking questions to gather more information to assist in the process of enhancing the water quality and weeds in all ponds. Lastly, research will be performed to determine if another study similar to the 2005 ACT report is a viable project to pursue either through our venue or the ConsCom.

Action Item: Ms. Giovannini and Ms. Nehring will review materials in an attempt to gather specific town pond information in relation Town meetings and various approvals and monetary allocations which may have affected the Town's dams or ponds historically.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment: April 9th, 2012 and the Town Hall, Ayer, MA, were fixed to be the time and place of the next regular meeting and the March 26, 2012 meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Clerk
Dam and Pond Management Committee

Date of approval

