

**Watson Pond Association Inc.
PO Box 325, East Otis, MA 01029**

Minutes of the meeting on May 27, 2012

Co-Presidents: Lou Steinberg & Craig Drenga
Vice President: Jennifer Hardy
Treasurer: Peter Hughes
Secretary: Alicia Dunaj

Meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM

Meeting Attendees: Arnie DePascale, Craig & Chris Tighe, Lou Steinberg, Jay Diamond, Jess Drenga, Peg Huebner, Michael & Alicia Dunaj, Jay & Joyce LaBonte, John Harwood, Mel & Beverly Schnoll & Doris Shallcross

- **Financial Update by Lou Steinberg on behalf of Peter Hughes**

We began the year with \$24,048, \$6,032 in the general fund and \$18,016 in the weed fund. An invoice from Lycott for \$7,480 to pay for Sepro sample testing was received in early January and reduced the weed fund to \$10,536, where it stands today.

The dues appeal for 2012 was mailed on April 24, 12 dues payments have been received for \$1,500, purchased picnic tickets worth \$240. Against the income we recorded expenses of \$222, resulting in a general fund value now of \$7,550. Our present net worth is a grand total of \$18,086. We may need to raise more money for the ongoing weed program, depending on the approach adopted by the weed committee.

- **Weeds**

We will need ongoing monitoring and possible spot treatment or spot cutting. More to be discussed at the Lake & Management Committee meeting.

- **Roads**

Everyone present agreed that the roads were acceptable, no work was recommended.

- **Dam**

The Office of Dam Safety has inspected our dam and deemed it "unsafe". It is still unclear who owns the dam; however, we would like permission to begin repairs to the dam. We reviewed the work that was done last October as a result of the hurricane. Since then, the town added fill and put in a new culvert pipe, significantly smaller, which may have a negative impact in our dam should another storm hit the area.

We have hired Morris Route Engineering to assist in the repairs of the dam. They have urged us ***not to fill any sinkholes with cement!!!*** The cement will harden and will not settle to fill the void below. In addition, until additional testing, **do not put any additional boards in the dam.** We currently need Phase 2 Testing to be done. Tighe & Bond did this testing 4 years ago; however, they do not want to release the results. It was agreed that Lou Steinberg will send them a letter again requesting the results. Morris needs to file a Jurisdictional Determination for Repair to the state so we can repair areas of concern on the dam. Once this is complete they would need to file a Follow-up Inspection for Dams Deemed Poor or Unsafe. It was suggested that a work party get together to shore up areas of concern.

At this time we are using the culvert to limit the pressure on the dam. Craig Tighe will work with Morris and draft a letter to the Town of Otis outlining our concerns of their modifications to the culvert, the rip rap added to the sides of the dam and the fact that this work may place our dam in jeopardy if another large storm hits.

Work Party on the Dam

Who: Anyone & everyone can help with muscle, drinks, food, and support!

Why: To shore up stones on the dam

When: Saturday, June 30th, 10AM (Rain Date: July 7th, 10AM)

- Meeting Adjournment at 11:32AM

Weed Meeting

11:33AM meeting called to order.

Lou Steinberg gave an update on the status of the treatment which ended with the tropical storm which diluted the treatment. Ken Wagner recommended that we test this year before we consider any further treatment. Mr. Wagner also sent the ConCom report on May 1st. We will need reports for June, August and September regarding the water quality. We should consider a plant surgery/assessment in June. In August he will conduct a full mapping and assessment of the pond. Next April/May 2013 timeframe he will be required to conduct another habitat survey.

A friendly reminder to continue to pump your septic annually or bi-annually!!

Jess Drenga advised that Craig has offered to cut the weeds for people if requested.

Another suggestion for controlling the weeds would be a fabric that lets the gas through and blocks the light, preventing weeds from growing. This can be attached to PVC pipes and submerged with sand bags and moved around as necessary. Lou Steinberg advised they have two panels in front of their beach and they are working well.

The culvert was discussed and it was mentioned that the boards should not be removed at this time. They are keeping our pond a pond and preventing it from becoming a puddle!

It was suggested that we ask Ken Wagner if we continue to need a draw down for any reason.

Meeting ended 11:48AM

Our next WPA meeting will be on held at the West Beach on Sunday, June 30th at 11am. Rain date: July 7th. The Watson Pond Lake Management Committee Meeting will be held immediately following.