LAKE MASPENOCK WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ADVISORY GROUP

HOPKINTON MA 10748

April 29, 2016 MINUTES

In attendance;

John Westerling, Dept. of Public Works

Jeff Barnes, Conservation Commission

Eric Sonnet, Parks & Rec. Dept.

David Mitchell, Consultant

Jamie Goncalves, At Large

Cynthia Esthimer, At Large

Drew Logan, At Large

Public attendees

Malcolm Page, 74 Pine Island Rd

Ron Shamus, 36 Lakeshore Dr.

* Town Meeting next week
  + Article 14 for $60k Lake Maspenock Weed Management has been withdrawn
  + $60k budget line item for Lake Maspenock Weed Management is within the DPW budget
  + If asked, the committee will be prepared to address Town Meeting.
    - Jaimie to cover charter of the committee, what we have accomplished and why $60k is being asked for next year (studies, consulting, education and potentially treatment)
    - We are prepared to discuss what was spent of the $60k for current fiscal year and how much will be returned to the general fund.
    - A long term lake and watershed management plan will be developed and presented to the public in the fall timeframe. ”It’s not just about the weeds”.
    - We need to assess the effectiveness of the extended drawdown conducted this past winter before making any decisions on further action needed this year to address the weeds.
    - Cynthia will cover the involvement of the public, the survey on uses of the lake and our pledge of transparency.
    - Jeff will cover any questions on the use of herbicides.
    - Eric will cover the town’s investment in Sandy Beach as well as the overall health of the lake. A handout is being created with the vision statement and fact sheet on the lake to be distributed at Town Meeting.
    - Drew is travelling for business and unable to attend.
    - David will be in attendance and available as our expert.
* A proposal from David Mitchell, Consultant, was reviewed and approved by the committee. This proposal is for work related to creating the Lake Maspenock Long Term Management Plan as well as the Lake Maspenock Long Term Monitoring Program. Total cost of both programs is $11, 630.The current monitoring program needs to be expanded to 8-10 consistent location.
* The committee discussed payment for biological surveys. There is a current invoice for $1200 from Solitude Lake Management and billed to the LMPA for the survey conducted in September which was used by the committee to assess current weed growth patterns as well as establish a baseline for the effectiveness of the extended drawdown. Another biological survey is to be conducted this summer as required by the NOI for the extended drawdown. A discussion about whether the LMPA or Town should pay for these surveys. Guest and current President of the LMPA, Malcolm Page provided a history on the NOI filing and the requirement of the biological surveys. Now that the town has formalized the weed management program, the committee feels payment for these services should be made by the town.
* David circulated some educational flyers used in Sturbridge which the committee felt would be an excellent educational tool for our lake community.
* Public attendee Ron Shamus volunteered his time if needed and also expressed his concerns about the use of herbicides.
* Upcoming Committee schedule
  + Town Meeting, May 2
  + May 24, 7-9 pm
  + Open forum report out, tbd
  + Selectman’s meeting report out, tbd

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Drew Logan