LAKE MASPENOCK WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ADVISORY GROUP

HOPKINTON MA 10748

MARCH 8, 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

* Call to order by Jaimie G at 7 pm. Minutes from Jan 7 and Jan 28 meetings were unanimously approved without changes as were minutes from the open forums from Feb 9 and Feb 27.
* An update on the survey results to date was given by Cynthia. We have had approximately 150 respondents to date and will be closing the survey.
* A discussion about the Feb 27 public forum occurred and action items were developed. It is important that all points raised within the forums are addressed adequately as we move towards recommendations.
* For herbicide alternatives, we need to focus on education about the facts as well as comparisons between the different types of herbicides. Comparison to chlorine, which in an undiluted state is actually more toxic, might help. Diquat has not been found to be carcinogenic.
* A discussion occurred about prioritizing the areas of the lake most needed for treatment. This may help with deciding which treatments may be effective for each section. Benthic barriers were discussed as an option we could pursue for smaller areas around the beach. David mentioned that during his conversation with ACT, they have not yet provided last year’s lake map, which he asked them to complete.
* Dredging was discussed again as an alternative but the committee continues to be concerned with length of time for permitting and unacceptable costs.
* A suggestion to create a blanket approval and guidelines for residents to treat lake weeds was made. For example, we may be able to pre-approve hand pulling and disposal of weeds but we would not want residents dumping herbicides into the lake.
* A review of the storm basins should be done.
* David offered an outline of a Lake & Watershed Plan. This plan needs to include monitoring. We may want to consider expanding the water testing to include chloride.
* John provided an update on the funding. The FY15 budget of $60k ends on July 1. It can be rolled over into the next fiscal year provided contracts are in place to perform any work prior to that time. DPW has $60k in the operational budget for next year, which still needs to be approved at Town Meeting.
* It was agreed that the LMPA and town of Hopkinton need to increase efforts to educate on the use of eco-friendly herbicides and overall watershed management. Cynthia has created a flyer that will be posted to the LMPA’s site and could be printed for hand outs.
* A discussion of septic systems and sewers lead to a suggestion that we get an update from Milford and Upton end of the lake from those towns.
* Upcoming Committee schedule
  + March 24, 7-9 pm
  + March 31, 7-9 pm
* Action items:
  + Drew to create a spreadsheet of all comments/questions raised by the public at the 2 forums so that they can all be tracked and addressed.
  + Jeff to work with Con Com on developing guidelines/approvals for what residents could do on their own to control weeds, eg, hand pulling.
  + Jeff to create a comparative table of herbicide options
  + Drew to create a spreadsheet for treatment options by lake area zones.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Drew Logan