LAKE MASPENOCK WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ADVISORY GROUP

HOPKINTON MA 10748

MINUTES OCTOBER 8, 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

In attendance;

John Westerling, DPW Director

Eric Sonnet, Parks & Rec. Liaison

Jaime Goncalves, Chair

Cynthia Esthimer, Vice Chair

Drew Logan, Resident

David Mitchell, Consultant

1. Meeting was called to order by Jaime Goncalves at 9:00am.
2. The group reviewed the Power Point Presentation on the background, methodology, findings and proposed recommendations of the LMWM&CAG.
3. John Westerling will approach the Board of Selectmen in the first week of November, 2016 to set a date to hear the Advisory Group’s recommendations.
4. Next meeting of the Advisory Group will take place on October 18, 2016.
5. The presentation to the public began at 10:00am with introductions, a review of the Group’s charge and moved into the detailed presentation including:
6. Identified Zones that demarcate the shoreline, beach, public boat ramp, coves, swamp, shallow and deeper areas
7. Types of weeds found in the Zones
8. Thresholds in each Zone that would trigger weed management
9. Prioritized management options within each Zone
10. Watershed considerations
11. Ongoing monitoring program
12. Five year management plan
13. The Group’s next steps were stated to be:
14. Consideration of today’s Public comments and questions
15. Presentation to the Board of Selectmen in November 2016
16. Public questions included:
17. Can a deep draw down occur every year? –*Con. Comm. permits the draw downs and must consider the environmental impact. A deep draw down every 3-5 years seems tolerable.*
18. How specific are the thresholds in each Zone? *–Compromised recreational use, generally by weeds breaking the surface, might trigger management.*
19. When will decisions be made to manage weeds in any Zone?-*Each Zone in the lake is monitored in the spring and fall. Fall is typically the predictor of the next year’s weed situation. Spring monitoring will usually determine if management is needed.*
20. How will the Public be notified if management is necessary?-*Notice of a Public Forum will be posted on the Hopkinton Town website. Advisory Group meetings are open to the Public.*
21. Why were the weeds so bad last year?-*The previous draw down successfully knocked down invasive weeds but may have created a void that the indigenous large leaf pondweed filled. The deep draw down that occurred over the 2015-16 winter helped knock down the pondweed.*
22. Could the flowering tops of the large leaf pondweed be trimmed to prevent spreading seeds? –*Yes, but there will always be dormant seeds in the lake bed that can sprout at any time.*
23. Will this plan be placed on the Town’s website? –*Yes. It will be located in the DPW section.*

1. In wrapping up this Forum, the Chair thanked the residents. He noted that to date the Advisory Group has held 13 meetings, 3 Public Forums and 2 monitoring field trips all of which have been open to the public.
2. The meeting adjourned at 10:56am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Esthimer