

Town of Westminster
Massachusetts 01473
Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee
August 1, 2017

Members Present: Heather Billings, Kathleen Brennan, Mary Ann Falconer, Pat Hatzis, Pat Streeter

Others Present: Pat Cronin, Anne Lutz, John Lutz, Bob Francis, Amanda Burke-Sentinel & Enterprise

Call To Order: Heather Billings called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

New Business

Ann Lutz, John Lutz and Pat Cronin, abutters to Crocker Pond, discussed concerns about milfoil growing in the pond. Ann suggested having an assessment done to identify the genetic type. The Lutz's stated that an initial assessment costs approximately \$1,500. The committee indicated that if they are unable to make a decision about an assessment at this time without further discussing the issue with the Town Administrator. Ann added that she would share the cost of the assessment.

Bob Francis said he will do what he can to help manage the milfoil and will consider a drawdown of Crocker Pond and the pond that flows into Crocker Pond on South Ashburnham Road if necessary. Bob is also willing to help financially with a milfoil assessment.

Bob would like to see more policing of those illegally entering Crocker Pond from South Ashburnham Road and said that the police should be called if unauthorized people are on the dam and pond.

Kathleen stated that she has called the police for illegal snowmobiles on the pond in the winter but was told that there was nothing the police could do. Heather will talk to the DPW about posting signs on South Ashburnham Road.

Kathleen noted that the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife checked the pond last year and did not mention the milfoil.

Pat Cronin stressed the need to have a plan in place before next summer because milfoil can spread quickly. He added that a drawdown followed by freezing temperatures can be very effective in managing the milfoil.

Kathleen made a motion to purchase snow fencing and poles to block geese from entering the water in the beach. Motion approved unanimously.

Kathleen made a motion to move the hay behind the barn so the barn can be used as a reading nook for the story walk. Pat Hatzis expressed concern about the expense. Kathleen said that it would be minimal. The committee approved the purchase of outdoor cushions for the barn.

Mary Ann asked if Town services can be used to cut down large trees along the trails. The committee will investigate.

Kathleen stated that the staff will begin restoring trail signs.

Pat Hatzis will look for moorings to mark the dock and swim buoy areas during the off season.

Mary Ann made a motion to close the beach area and gate at 7:00 p.m. starting August 20, 2017, and to start fall hours, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Labor Day. The committee will monitor daylight hours and make adjustments for safety as necessary. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: August 9, 2017 at 5:30 in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Ann Falconer