

Town of Westminster
Massachusetts 01473
Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee
September 12, 2017

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

Others Present: Louise Garland Wheelen, John Lutz, Pat Cronin

Call To Order: Heather called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes approved: August 9th, August 17th & August 29th

Invoices: National Grid \$54.38

The Board of Selectman approved \$1,500.00, and signed the contract, for Solitude Lake Management to assess and map the milfoil. Heather will inform the committee and John Lutz when a date has been scheduled.

Pat Cronin submitted a check for \$375.00 for his portion of the assessment payment. John Lutz will mail his check to Town Hall.

John Lutz referred to an email that Pat Cronin sent to Heather, and expressed concerns about funding for milfoil mitigation. Kathleen reiterated that the Town has only committed to the assessment and mapping at this time. The committee feels that treatment recommendations may need to be presented to the Town.

Pat Cronin shared information he gathered at a presentation given by Tom Flannery from Mass DCR.

- Copper sulfate can be used to treat bladder wort and other weeds at a reasonable price.
- Bladder wort will freeze and die during a draw down but other weeds like long leaf pond weed could flourish if given oxygen.
- Buoy signs can be installed in areas to warn boaters about milfoil and to prevent them from spreading it.

Pat Cronin asked if the Town had a pesticide license. Heather will check, and stated that we may be able to work with the Conservation Commission to have state fees waived.

Pat Cronin gave the committee boater information signs to post and will contact Tom Flannery to get a supply of informational pamphlets for us.

He also informed the committee that duck breeding boxes have been installed on land around the pond. The ducks breed during March and vacate during the summer season.

Other Business:

Louise questioned why some member of the senior tax work off program were allowed to work over 125 hours. She is concerned that she has not accumulated enough hours during the summer. Kathleen

stated that all senior workers sign agreements to work their schedule through the end of the season, and agree to make arrangements for coverage, or swap hours, should they need to change their schedule. Louise arranged coverage for herself to take time off, but had not taken on other shifts to make up the hours. Louise will work some hours during the fall weekends and check with the library for additional hours.

Kathleen will mail letters to residents, whom do not pick up their boats by Columbus Day, stating that the boats must be picked up by Saturday, October 14th. After that they will be considered abandoned and police will be notified. Kathleen will send the letter to the board and Sam Albert for review.

Excavation is underway near the Whitman Trail site and will be completed in 2-4 weeks.

Kathleen stated that the raft has been pulled in and the buoys put out to mark the chains. The buoys in the swimming area will be pulled at the end of September, washed and then put away for the winter.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 26th at 5:30 in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Falconer