

Pillings Pond Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
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November 10th, 2020
Pillings Pond Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: Brian Roberts, Debra Roberts, Kirk Mansfield, Antonio Sordillo,
Guest: Joe Onorato, Water & Wetlands

- **Bellevue Island Update** – Kristen did contact owner of Island. Owner has no idea what pipe is and thinks it is from when it was a Boy's Scout camp shower stall. Kristen is sending him a letter that the pipe must be capped off.
- **Downed Trees** – some that have been down for a long time are now wildlife habitats. Discussion around trees that fall going forward, are they habitats or hazards? ConCom to clarify.
- **Joe Onorato from Water & Wetland (W&W)**
 - Update on using BioChar filters on Bates Brook flowing into the pond. \$50 per sock. 4 ft in diameter. Replace annually recommended but could last several years to be fully saturated. Water & Wetland would have to review area to recommend how many are needed to create a "wall".
 - Could these affect residents upstream with potentially flooding?
 - Staggering the filters could eliminate this issue.
 - They are very porous
 - Used at Golf Courses with inlet streams
 - Could these be used where storm drains flow into the pond?
 - Yes, but it is experimental to help mitigate the issues.
 - Catch Basins are what are really needed with filtration.
 - Does fish or turtles get caught in there?
 - No, Joe will provide a sample. It's a porous material like a tube so nothing can swim into it and get stuck.
 - Staggering will also help allow fish to move around them.
 - Water testing during installation – upstream verse downstream recommended to see effect of filters.
 - Water gyrotors – used in the past. Julie Hallenborg stated the past data after used at Pillings Pond showed they were ineffective. The Pond would need over 20 of these to move the shallow areas.
 - Edgemere & Wildwood – Green Algae has been prevalent in the swamp area of this intersection. Julie Hallenborg asked if we could have this swamp area treated as it's running off into the pond.
 - Joe Onorato W&W believes it's a leafed plant, duckweed, that is growing there but he will further investigate it.

- Antonio noticed algae on the rocks in front of his property. Joe stated this could be normal, healthy algae.
- Geese: if you keep them off your property, are the defecating more in the pond?
 - The more people that have natural barriers to prevent geese from coming on their property, the more the geese will look for other bodies of water to use.
 - Geese are generally lazy and don't want to go through brush/barriers. They move onto a different pond with easy access in and out of the water
 - Joe Onorato W&W – Obtain an abutters list from the assessor's office. Send a mailing about our website to sign up for emails and educational material.
- Joe Recommend Mike DiRosa – Rowley ConCom: compromise with homeowners on barriers. Mike is a wetland landscape designer for new homeowners to protect shoreline.
- Phragmites – Julia Hallenborg has a problem with overgrowth of Phragmites. Kirk's neighbor is also having this problem. Kirk stated that you have to dig them out. Joe from W&W stated these are invasive, bad natural habitat, out compete all other plant life, will continue to encroach up and away from the water. Cutting doesn't help, they will grow back thicker. Digging them out is almost impossible – meters long shoots down and sideways. Not even an excavator does a good job. Unfortunately, a herbicide treatment is needed like Glyphosphate (bad press) or ClearCast (new, better herbicide). Best to do it late in the season – hit the leaves at the end of the season. Will reduce the following year growth. Will need to do it for 2-3 year to eradicate. Question is whether ConCom will allow W&W to conduct this treatment on private properties. Kirk to talk to ConCom to see if private land owners and contact W&W for treatment at their own cost.
 - ClearCast or Glyphosphate (AquaPro) – are safe for the pond. There are best management practices like not conducting on windy days or before rain.
 - Phragmites usually only grow into 18-24" of water. Wouldn't take over the pond as it gets deeper.

Impacts of Invasive Phragmites

- *Crowds out native vegetation, thus resulting in decreased plant biodiversity.*
- *Generally, provides poor habitat and food supplies for wildlife, including several Species at Risk.*

- *Grows very quickly thereby causing lower water levels as water is transpired faster than it would be with native vegetation.*
 - *Increases fire hazards as stands are composed of a high percentage of dead stalks.*
 - *Can affect agriculture, cause road safety hazard and impact recreational activities such as swimming, boating and angling*
- Leaves – People are often blowing their leaves into the pond. ConCom in the past has fined people for this activity. We need to educate the abutters on the negative effects of dumping leaves into the pond. Will use Facebook, website and potential future mailings/email to educate residents.
- Question from Zubin in attendance: Lives on Oakridge – saw Lilly Pad roots floating excessively in the pond this year. What causes this?
 - Response from Joe O W&W:
 - Death of Lilly pads whether naturally or by a treatment from a homeowner but normally they sink back down
 - They are shallow in the muck and can get pulled it out easily
 - Lilly's can be treated. They are native but they are a nuisance and can starv oxygen from the pond.
 - Hydro-raking or treatments.
- Joe O W&W has been working with Emilie for 2021 for proper treatments and additional testing to see what works best in this pond. Treating sources verse just problems. Joe will propose BioChar. Joe needs a picture or Google Map location where we'd like them in Bates Brook
- Joe O W&W will look into our watershed impact with the open pipes that travel into the pond. This is a bigger problem for the pond that needs massive engineering to rectify.
- **Dredging**
 - Reviewed information from last meeting
 - ESS Group (Providence RI/Norwood MA) – Joe W&W recommended them for Engineering plans & feasabilty study. Dredge America (Missouri based) is a company that he has worked with.
 - Grants – will need the feasibility study.
 - Talk to Peabody in their costs for dredging of Crystal Lake.
 - Jimmy Mamos: Is there an area behind Camp Curtis that Lynnfield owns that could be used for Staging of BioBags?
 - Recommended that we allow the Engineers to determine feasible locations to avoid rumors from PPSC.
- **Pond By-Laws**
 - Haven't been updated Since 1958

- Kirk is sending over updated by-laws. Board of Selectmen will vote on it.
 - Swimming allowed in Pillings Pond?
 - Swimming is at your own risk
- **Bank Restoration**
 - Emilie to provide us the copies of the plans for bank restoration to post on our website.
- **Website:**
 - We do have a distribution list of emails from people signing up on our website.
We can use this now to push material digitally to abutters and residents
 - Add photography to the website
 - History of the pond
 - Showcase houses and landscaping of preferred bank restorations
 - Kirk recommended looking at Sunset Lake in Hampstead NH as a reference of a great Pond Association Website.
- **Review of last meeting's minutes**
 - Voted: All accepted