

# Pond Committee Meeting Minutes: August 28, 2019

**Present:** Paul Novak, Elaine Wood, Liz Provo, Amy Marsters, Kisha Zullo, Beth Tiffany

**Guests:** Gary Golas, Pond Consultant, Bri Eichstaedt, Health Agent

The meeting was called to order at 6:06PM

**Public Speak Time:** carried to new business

**Approval of the June, July 10, July 31 minutes**

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## NEW BUSINESS:

**Cyanobacteria Update:** Bri and Gary updated us on the water quality concerns that arose in August. On August 15th, photographs were provided to the state Mass. Dept. of Public Health (MDPH) from the Easthampton Health Dept. which indicated the presence of cyanobacteria (algae) cells at Nashawannuck Pond at levels that may exceed the MDPH guidelines for recreational waterbodies in Massachusetts. Accordingly, MDPH recommends that a public advisory be issued and a sign be posted at each access point to the Pond to notify residents and visitors that they should avoid contact with the water. Once the algae appears to be clear, the MDPH will take two samples and the advisory will be lifted after at least two samples come back within an acceptable range. Signs will be removed once the advisory is lifted. On August 22nd, the algae was still present on the pond. DPW was contacted to make sure all debris was cleared from the dam. On Sept. 4th the state tested the water without finding cyanobacteria. On Sept. 11 the state tested the water a second time, also resulting in no cyanobacteria. The signs were removed.

Discussion ensued regarding the length of time the pond was not accessible to the public due to the possibility of this toxic bacteria. A business who depends on the pond was severely impacted by the incident. What can we do next year to be pro-active, monitor the water quality, make sure debris is cleared on a regular basis to allow better water flow, possibly pay for our own water testing using the same CT lab the state uses. We will get together with Bri during the summer.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Merchandise:** Voted on the photo contest. Winners will be announced soon. 7 advertisers so far.- \$1,250. Deadline is Sept. 10.

**Fall Fundraising:** Update on restaurant week, tabling opportunities to sell merch (Fall Festival 10/12/19), Farmer's Markets) Liz created a Restaurant Week folder and spreadsheet in the 2020 WinterFest Google folder **Action steps: Kisha and Lainey to follow up. 9 - 19 of November. See sheet. On the drive.**

T-shirts: Fine. Sweatshirts: Need to reorder 5 Small 10 Mediums, 10 Large, 10 XL. **Action Steps: Kisha will get quote from Mantis and Liz will open PO when received.**

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Gabion Weir / Siltation basin/bascule Gate Update:** Finance committee unanimously passed our request for \$261,000. Next meeting is before City Council on Wed. Sept. 7, 2019 at 6:15 (public speak)

**Herbicide Treatment:** Herbicide treatment has been completed. Much lower invoice than expected. Gary also submitted invoice.

**Interpretive Signage:** Beth reported that she is waiting for Paul to identify native vs. non native fish, plants, animals, birds, etc. We will add a blurb for CPA on each sign. Action Step: Paul to review.

## WinterFest

Beth confirmed Keystone with Erin. Check to see when Frozen 2 will go to DVD. Ice Age 1 1 hr. 43 min., Maybe awards ceremony can be at EHS. Beth and Amy will review the form to see if we can remove "if electricity available, do you want it". Liz sent application form to Beth and Amy for review. Maybe remove the "would you like electricity if available". Action Step: Liz will forward form to Jonathan at UNIPay.

**Next Meeting: Wed. Sept, 25 6PM. Elaine will book room and prepare agenda. Please mark calendars ahead.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM - Minutes respectfully submitted by Liz Provo