



# TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

## Community Preservation Committee

### Meeting Minutes January 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Reed, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. at the Tewksbury Town Hall. In attendance were Richard Montuori, Jim Wentworth, Thomas Churchill, and John Deputat. Also present was Steve Sadwick, Director of Community Development, and residents Karyn Sliva and Donna Pelczar.

Steve Deackoff and Christina Nawn were not in attendance.

#### 1) **Follow up Discussion on Long Pond Remediation: May Town Meeting 2016 for Open Space Preservation Use – Draft Long Pond Report**

Present was Domenic of Aquatic Control Technology Company. Domenic has been working with the Conservation Agent, Kyle Boyd, on a study of Long Pond. Domenic explained that included in the study was an aquatic vegetation survey, a surrounding wetland vegetation survey and delineation, 6 rounds of water quality testing; which included many different perimeters (phosphorus, ph, algae samples, etc.).

Domenic reviewed the aquatic vegetation study and noted that there was not much vegetation in the pond itself. There were no submersed plants; which he feels is the result of poor water clarity and algae growth in the water as it does not allow the sunlight to reach the bottom of the pond to allow rooted plants to germinate. Vegetation is very much limited to water lilies around the edge, pickle weed, and water willow. Domenic explained that when these plants grow over a period of years they will eventually shallow the shorelines further and the progression of the woody vegetation moving out will occur. It was noted that approximately 12% of the pond is covered with water lilies and approximately 5% is covered with pickle weed. There is no milfoil, pond weeds, or other native plant species that would generally grow up from the bottom; which had been indicated as a problem in the past on previous reports.

Domenic explained that the wetland delineation and vegetation survey was completed by ESS Group and has been attached to their report. The survey looked at the larger complex of Long Pond in terms of adjacent wetlands, etc. and laid it out on a map.

Domenic explained that the water depth survey showed an average maximum depth to be 6.38 feet with an average depth of 3.5 feet. Mr. Wentworth noted that there are reports that the pond was 10 feet deep in the 1980s and asked if the growth is coming from the outside in or if the shallowing is the result of the lilies dying and Domenic explained that it is likely a combination of both those things and noted that the watershed for the pond is

relatively small. As a result, there is not a lot of in flowing water. The vegetation around the edge of the pond has been there for a long time. Domenic suggested focusing on the plants along the edge to control and manage them so that there is no further encroachment.

Domenic explained that they conducted six sample rounds of water quality tests and tested for a number of parameters including temperature, dissolved oxygen, color, clarity, ph, hardness, suspended solids, nutrients, etc. On average, the water quality was average to poor across the board on most of the parameters. The tributaries were very elevated indicating that there is an issue in the watershed where the streams are coming from that is feeding the phosphorus into the pond on a regular basis. Domenic explained that science has discovered that these blue green algae cells can produce different types of nerve and liver toxins and can be dangerous to people using the pond as well as the fish and wildlife in the area. Massachusetts Department of Public Health has a 70,000 cells per milliliter threshold for blue green algae at which point the pond should be closed for swimming and recreation use. Domenic noted that the May and two July rounds were not too bad, August was 140 cells per milliliter, and September was 430 cells; which is a severe bloom of algae and is a concern. Mr. Wentworth asked if the recommendation is that the pond not be used for recreational purposes at all and Domenic suggested the pond be monitored during the summer time and once the level has reached over 100 cells, the pond should be posted for no recreation. Shoreline fishing would likely be fine; however, eating the fish is not recommended. Domenic notes that they conducted a one year study, but it is pretty clear that there are some serious phosphorus problems as well as poor water quality issues.

The recommendations are to continue monitoring the pond to maintain a monthly baseline of data. As well as manage the problems in the pond by treating the algae blooms with aluminum sulfate; which is a chemical used in drinking water and has been used in lakes and ponds since the 1970's to bring phosphorus levels down for that season. This will help elevate the algae bloom and hopefully allow the pond to remain open during the summer. Domenic explained that the treatment will stop working over time and phosphorus levels will slowly start to creep up; however, they are not sure how long or when. Another option is to kill the algae with a copper sulfate. Domenic explained that if the first treatment is done and the phosphorus levels creep up in the summer, it can be treated with the copper sulfate.

Discussion took place on hydro raking. Domenic explained that the treatments work well with the water lilies and water raking works best for the water willow and if these species are not managed, they will continue to expand and spread out. Mr. Wentworth discussed the cost of hydro raking and noted the cost is "\$195 per hour, time to be determined" and asked how long it typically takes to hydro rake a pond of this size and Domenic explained that it is typically 2 days an acre. Mr. Wentworth requested a recommendation for the hydro raking be put together with a projected cost and explained that some funding may be available through the State for this.

Ms. Reed explained that this proposal is for the first steps in maintenance and noted that \$35,000 has been requested. Ms. Reed reviewed the breakdown of the costs, a majority of which is for monitoring (\$20,000) and explained that the goal is to see how these steps

improve the quality and algae and then develop a plan going forward and determining if hydro raking is necessary.

Mr. Sadwick discussed the NPDES permit with the EPA and noted that he believes this water body has been identified as an impaired water body. Mr. Sadwick noted that improving the water quality will also help with the NPDES permit.

Discussion took place on the 319 Grant that was received to construct the BMP's around the pond.

Mr. Wentworth left the meeting to answer an urgent phone call.

Ms. Reed asked if there are funds available in the Wetland Protection Fund for this purpose and Mr. Sadwick explained that the funds in the Wetland Protection Fund can only be used towards enforcement or administering the Wetland Protection Act; however, the Conservation Fund could be used for this purpose.

Mr. Wentworth returned to the meeting.

## 2) **Proposals for May 2016 Town Meeting:**

Ms. Reed explained that the Finance Director has informed her that there is approximately \$85,700 available in the Open Space fund; which is not sufficient to fund all of the projects being brought forward. Mr. Wentworth suggested reviewing each proposal and then prioritizing them.

- **For Open Space Use:**

- a) **Long Pond Water Quality Improvements - \$35,000**

Discussed under the previous agenda item.

- b) **Bay Circuit Wetland Boardwalks - \$12,000**

Ms. Reed noted that this is something that Mr. Boyd has been working on.

- c) **FY2017 Livingston Fence - \$100,000**

Ms. Reed noted that \$200,000 has already been appropriated for this project; however, the bids came in higher than anticipated. Mr. Montuori noted that he is not opposed to postponing the improvements until the spring due to funding.

- d) **FY2017 Wamesit Park Additional - \$35,000**

Mr. Montuori explained that the lowest bid for the project came in \$40,000 higher than what was budgeted. The State has agreed to do some work to help bring the project within the budget; however, in the event this does not

happen, Mr. Montuori would like submit for the funds and noted that the funds can be turned back if they are not used. Mr. Montuori explained that MDR Construction was the lowest bidder on the project and has agreed to hold the bid until the end of May, 2016. It is not known how the work done by the State will quantify into a savings.

Mr. Wentworth got another urgent phone call due to a family emergency and left the meeting.

- **For Historic Preservation Use:**

- a) **Pike House Relocation - \$175,000**

Ms. Reed noted that this proposal would have to be put off due to funding.

Mr. Sadwick explained that he spoke with the proponent, James Andella, who informed him that that he was still getting numbers from another company to relocate the house and mentioned that the Committee had considered meeting next week as well. Mr. Sadwick noted that there may be more information Mr. Andella would like to bring forward to the Committee; however, the funds are not available.

Discussion took place on the large costs associated with the relocation of the Pike House.

**3) CPA FY2017 Budget Article**

Ms. Reed noted that she is still working on the draft budget article.

**4) Brief Update on CPA Projects, as needed:**

- **Livingston Cemetery Fence/Recreation land transfer from the State**  
Mr. Montuori noted that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
- **Planning Board Affordable Housing**
- **Ella Fleming School Historic Rehab**
- **Tewksbury Rail Trail Study**
- **School Playgrounds Rehab**
- **Wamesit Indian Park Rehab. and Muster Park rehab**
- **Update on Open Space and Rec. Plan RFP/next steps**
- **Strong Field, Baseball Field at High School, Pleasant Street, Rehab of Recreation Use**
- **Livingston Street, replace fencing, Rehab of Recreation Use**

**5) New Business/Old Business**

There was no new or old business.

**6) Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Adjourn.**

**MOTION: Mr. Montuori made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Churchill and the motion carried 4-0.**

**Approved: July 20, 2016**

*List of Documents for the 1/7/2016 Meeting  
Documents can be located at the Community Development Office*

1. Draft Long Pond Report
2. Proposals for May 2016 Town Meeting
3. Estimate for FY2017-May 2016 Town Meeting CPA Budget Article
4. Chart 1—Community Preservation Fund Allowable Spending Purposes
5. Community Preservation Act (General Laws Chapter 44B)
6. Town of Tewksbury Community Preservation Committee Criteria