

Littleton Clean Lakes Committee (LCLC) Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 7:00PM, October 8th, 2007 meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Folsom at the Operations Center at 39 Ayer Road, Littleton, Massachusetts.

Attendees: Jon Folsom, Dan Lord, Eliot Putnam, Susan Silberberg, Steve Sussman, Savas Danos and Leon Weaver.

Committee minutes from our May 5th 2007 meeting were reviewed and unanimously accepted by attendees.

Mill Pond

Steve Sussman mentioned he's observed a beaver dam at the Beaver Brook inlet to Mill Pond and was seeking counsel on what could be done about this blockage.

Mill Pond water quality sampling could be done again this weekend. Recent sampling work has shown that phosphorus loading is significantly lower than previous measurements done around 10 years ago. This new data could reenergize the Army Corp of Engineers work.

A discussion ensued concerning Mill Pond and abutting properties that could potentially be used for public access. It appears at least one property in this category needs to have ownership clarified, i.e. determine if certain private citizens have rights via adverse possession or is it privately owned or exclusively town owned. Proposed steps to clarify this ownership are i) to survey the property, ii) perhaps modestly improve the property in the short term if it is owned by the town and iii) socialize these proposed steps with town fathers, ConsCom, the community, etc. The committee unanimously approved this proposal.

Long Lake

Savas handed out copies of the final report "Low Impact Design/Best Management Practices Manual" for Littleton, dated May 2007. This document suggests how developers might better preserve water quality and quantity via LIDs and BMPs as part of their proposed stormwater controls. "Article XIV of the Town's Zoning Bylaw establishes the Aquifer District and the Water Resource District as overlay zoning districts. Within these Districts, a special permit is required for new construction if more than 20 percent of the lot or parcel will be rendered impervious. As this is potentially restrictive toward development, use of LID technologies and innovative uses of existing technologies is envisioned as a way for developers to receive "credit" for using specific LID techniques, thus allowing greater use of the property (i.e. increased impervious area) when stormwater performance criteria are met."

Savas gave us a rain-barrel update. We've sold 14 more rain-barrels. We purchase the rain-barrels for \$55 and sell for \$45, subsidized via the LCLC.

We discussed criteria for the next round of rain-garden installations. Twelve (12) Long Lake properties are currently in the queue. Seeing as we have finite monies (~\$90K now), at about \$5K per rain-garden, we'll need to be selective about prioritization of work on candidate properties. Long Lake remains a target rich area for this work due to the high percentage of impervious vs. permeable surface area and hilly topography. Mill Pond and Spectacle Pond

LCLC members will identify additional candidate properties for this work. We're especially interested in properties with erosion problems. Savas also mentioned that Aggregate has rezoned some of their property along Spectacle Pond Road to residential. This property may be a good candidate for cascaded retention basins.

Spectacle Pond

Mike Callahan, from Beaver Solutions, needed to trap out five (5) more beavers at the outlet of Spectacle Pond. Leon Weaver and Mike debugged a problem where the beaver were somehow getting in through the Beaver Deceiver fencing and blocking water out-flow right at the invert. Our best guess now is that juvenile beavers squeezed through the holes in the fencing and blocked the outlet, probably assisted by the adults feeding dam materials through the fencing. We may have to trap out a few more animals to insure against future blockages.

Biologic Control of Eurasian Milfoil (weevils)

Susan Silberberg presented some literature regarding possible use of weevils to control milfoil (Investigations on the Potential Use of an Aquatic Weevil to Control Eurasian Watermilfoil, by Sallie P. Sheldon). The committee was of course very interested in this method as the weevils eat milfoil, are a native species and their population is most likely self-limiting.

High School septic system

Savas mentioned he was working on a problem with odors/gases coming from the high school septic system and getting into the High School air system. He detailed possible mitigation work.

Additional information

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 6th, 2007.