

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Pond Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

7:30 pm

Attendees: J. McClanaghan (Chair), C. Mannix (Vice Chair), Lee Anne McWeeney, Bill DelGizzo, Val Henry, Anita Langer, Nick Passarelli, Tony Lupino, Stephen Puerini, Jane Puerini, Marie Lupino, Bill Giannini, Carol Duffy, MichelleCaraccia, Nancy Cordy, Stephen Caraccia, Natalie McDonald, Rep. Carol Hagen McEntee

Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:29 pm EST.

DEM Grant

J. McClanaghan discussed the status of the current dredge project. ES&M, the consultant hired to assist with project initiation, has been doing various tests. The team has also had discussions with the Town of Narragansett, DEM and CRMC. Tests include the hydraulic model and sand sampling. It was indicated that the consultants were on site today.

The team took many pictures. Attention is paid to the culverts. They want to compare models and see how much is in the breach-way and how far the water comes up. The water level is described as high.

Beach Replenishment

The end goal is to take the sand out of the pond and replenish the beach. The sand will be spread on the beach. It cannot be removed from that area. However, we have to wait for the results of the sand analysis.

There is also a culvert on Lake Road.

Watershed

There was significant discussion of our watershed, including the catch basins, water from pipes on Boston Neck Road, water that runs underneath Route 1-A. A significant amount of the water flows down to the Pond.

J. McClanaghan indicated that part of the job of the engineers is to see where all the water is coming from and where is settling and flowing after arriving at the Pond.

The goal is to lower the levels of the pond. N. Passarelli stated that the bottom of the Pond is only one foot above sea level.

B. Del Gizzo indicated that the true origin of the water is at Casey Farm. He also said that there are plans to develop the URI Bay Campus, which could increase water flows. He also discussed the need for crushed stone. Allagash, for example, is not paved to absorb water.

Flood Gates

N. Passarelli talked about the possibility of a flood gate. Pictures of possible flood gates were passed around the table.

A member discussed Duck Cove and getting permits for eco friendly sprays to take out the phragmites.

ES&M is still waiting for the results of the lab tests, which could shed light on what allows the growth.

Dredge Timeline

N. McDonald asked about whether or not we are going to miss our window. J. McClanaghan and C. Mannix indicated that, at the current time, we continue to be on schedule.

The committee also talked about what would happen if the sand cannot be used to replenish the beach.

N. McDonald said that this had been the case when the dredge was done at the harbor.

Audubon's ownership of the Pond was identified as a "non- issue" and that will not be a problem. We have an existing assent with CRMC and we can modify that assent.

N. McDonald identified culvert work going back 10 years and that there has not been vegetation growth in that one particular area since that work was performed.

Public Comment

There was also rhetorical discussion about how to control the levels of the pond and that there are historic photos that indicate a different scenario.

Report from Bonnet Watershed Warrior

During the meeting, the other agenda items that had been posted were addressed as part of the dredge discussion. Specific to water analysis, C. Mannix read a report from Laurie McCarthy, Bonnet's watershed warrior. Salient points in that report include the following:

- (1) At this time, we do not have any solid data on the pond for 2018.
- (2) The monitoring will continue until the middle of October 2018.
- (3) Pond data will be available several weeks after that.
- (4) L. McCarthy will let Lisa Di Bello know when the data is available to be shared at a monthly meeting.
- (5) L. McCarthy stopped by URI on September 17, 2018 to ask about the condition of the pond and was told this year's monitoring has not shown evidence of bacteria dangerous to our waters.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:25 pm EST.