

Cranberry Bog Working Group

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022 via Zoom

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Members Present: Ken Belitz, Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Brian Murphy, Luke Ascollilo, Helen Young

Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard

Public: Iva Mooney, Warren Lyman, Chris Spinney, Caitlin Bonaventure (Mosquito)

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Meeting began at 7:05 pm

Chair Belitz initiated the meeting by doing a roll call of all members, administrators, and public. He then recited the Massachusetts governors order for conducting public meetings by Zoom. This meeting was covered by the minutes and not recorded. Belitz also explained public input will be taken when the Chair asks for public input and will call on persons and each will have 3 minutes.

Agenda Item:

1. Minutes from January – Changes were suggested and made by Willard. Then minutes were unanimously approved.
2. No changes to management plan at this time. NOI for Phragmites is ready, but Dam NOI will not be ready until fall and the restoration NOI later than that.
3. Phragmites NOI – prepared by Willard and will be presented to Cons Com on February 10<sup>th</sup>. It was not planned to have Bakewell at the meeting, but he could come. Already received a reference number from the State. Belitz felt might be good to have Bakewell as he has the most knowledge on the plan. Parra asked if Willard would make the presentation and she accepted.
4. Dam #1 NOI – Willard in the process of putting together a CPC. Willard stated that originally the Selectmen wanted to make sure the dam was an agricultural dam which placed it on a 10-year cycle. It is now getting close to the end of the cycle which would require a visual inspection from the Office of Dam Safety. Willard would like to have some of the improvements suggested at the last inspection be accomplished. Some of improvements suggested by the ODS are expensive so would like to accomplish some of the cheaper ones to demonstrate effort and improvement.
5. Water lilies – No discussion as the topic was discussed in depth last meeting.
6. Bog House – Willard making a CPC application for the bog house fire alarm system. Municipal Facilities Committee got cost of \$3345 to fix/upgrade the system. Currently if there was an

Willard was the only one alerted, but for efficiency and safety reasons the alert should go to Dispatch. Radio system higher cost initially, but cheap to maintain. Cellular is inexpensive to install, but costly to maintain. MFC decided to proceed with the radio system.

7. Warrant Article for FY 22/23: Parra felt it is premature to discuss a warrant article because scope and costs not available. Belitz asked to leave it off the agenda until ready to do NOI
8. Beavers – good notes from last meeting. Parra said Cons Com discussed beavers at their last meeting. Cons Com wanted Willard to find out more from Fish and Wildlife, but they haven't returned her calls. Willard recalled that beaver lodges can only be removed when the beavers have been trapped. The only reason for removal would be if there was a request from the Office of Dam Safety. Trapping beavers at the bog would be complicated because of the public trail.
9. Ditches – Provenzano asked that ditches be added to NOI so that bog is dry enough to mow. She believed that Duffy had cleared within the last 10 years but would need to check with him to be sure. Belitz felt that this NOI would be done after the Dam NOI
10. Cranberry Bog Renewal form was signed by Parra and mailed in. Willard received notification that the form was received by Department of ??.
11. Open discussion – Spinney asked for copy of January minutes. Did research on lily pad control and found the most successful project was on Mirror Lake in Norfolk. The group had canoe parties pulling up lily pads. Belitz asked about lily pad disposal. Spinney wasn't sure. Belitz also stated that lily pads were an issue in a lot of ponds last year and wondered if it was an anomaly. Belitz felt Spinney should keep a watch on the lily pad population. Spinney mentioned that cutting equipment not that expensive. It ranged from \$500 to \$2500. Belitz asked Spinney for more research. Spinney then thanked Willard for the abutter notice. Spinney also commented that a family of 3 bobcats had been spotted that might help with beaver control. Willard asked if Spinney knew the size of Mirror Lake which Spinney reported was 7 acres. Spinney posted the link to the project which is:  
<https://wrentham.ma.us/files/Wrentham%20Website%20Files/Conservation/Applications%20and%20Plans/2018%2003%2008%20Mirror%20Lake%20Report%20by%20ESS.pdf>

12. Next meeting: March 7, 2022, at 7 pm

Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes approved on March 7, 2022

Minutes submitted by Susan Provenzano on March 17, 2022