

## Cranberry Bog Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2022 via Zoom

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Members Present: Ken Belitz, Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Brian Murphy

Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard

Public: Iva Mooney, Warren Lyman, Mark Duffy, Steve Tobin

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Meeting began at 7:02 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 February – Changes were suggested and reviewed by Willard. Then minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Restoration NOI – Belitz wanted to restate objectives. Asked Parra if DiPinto had made a summary document. Parra didn't think there was a specific document but felt there were items discussed recently that hadn't been part of a formal decision. Clearing ditches was one of the items. Willard screen shared one of the last documents sent by DiPinto. This document had goals and then methods. Belitz wanted to follow up on the goals and will create a document that has goals as well as methods to achieve those goals. Provenzano spoke that the public really wanted the ponds and ditches would need to be kept somewhat clear to allow for mowing. Belitz wanted to think of keeping costs down. Then asked Willard to send this document to all the members for review.
3. Phragmites management – Cons Com approved the plan and submitted to DEP. The 10-day appeal time was up as of Friday. Willard sent the plan on to the Select Board, so we are good to go. Bakewell is ready to do the treatment, but there are still some items to accomplish before the treatment can be applied. Willard appealed for volunteers and sent note to DPW for help. Need to plan out preparation. Parra suggested picking a day and then getting volunteers. Tobin felt it was possible as long as public was given enough notice. Parra asked when Bakewell needs to start, but Bakewell needs to wait until new growth starts. Phragmites are dormant from December through March. Growth occurs from April through June. Therefore, the prep work can be done at any time now. Murphy suggested a few planks to make a safe and strong ramp. Willard would like to get boards that could be used for this and then repurposed for the trails committee work. Murphy suggested using a bush hog type of equipment to easily do the cuts.

Belitz suggested Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> Parra suggested getting a notice to the Mosquito for volunteers.

4. Cranberry Bog Dam #1 CPC Application– Belitz asked about progress since last meeting. Willard reported that a Community Preservation Act application was submitted to CPC. If approved, it may be sent out to bid and find out the costs.
5. Beavers – Parra reported that Cons Com approved beaver trapping. Willard has been in conversation with the trapper about less lethal trapping techniques. The trapper will use Hav-a-heart style traps. The use of this trap makes the cost of \$200 per beaver caught because the live beaver has to be transported away and euthanized. Once the trapper decides the placement of the traps there will need to be a decision on where to close the trail. Trails committee has been notified.
6. Bog House – The request for improved fire alert system was submitted. Willard feels the radio system will be chosen as it is more practical in the long run. It is what Fire Chief would like to see. More expensive to install but cheaper to maintain.
7. Water Lilies - a volunteer group is willing to take charge and do the work. Belitz emphasize that they need a plan, but worried about legalities. Provenzano commented that need to get together with others to make a plan after reading about Mirror Lake. Belitz is concerned about the disposal of the lilies. Parra said NOI would need to be made. Others wondered if lilies were a bumper crop from last year and won't be an issue this year. Willard reported she received a call that suggested maybe excess phosphorus was getting into the water causing the lilies excess growth.
8. Community discussion – Tobin commented that lily pads were needed by damsel flies and was concerned that removal would hurt their population.
9. Next meeting – April 4, 2022 at 7 pm

Adjourned at 7:35 pm

Approved on April 7, 2022

Submitted by Susan Provenzano