

Cranberry Bog Working Group

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2022 via Zoom

Members Present: Ken Belitz, Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Helen Young,

Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard

Public: Iva Mooney, Warren Lyman, Chris Spinney, Bob Zielinski

Meeting began at 7:15 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 remote. 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. Reviewed changes suggested by Willard and then the Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Reviewed the Cranberry Bog objectives for this restoration project. The document was part of May 6, 2021 project from 3 Oaks Environmental written by DiPinto. Willard shared her screen with DiPinto's document of objectives and goals. Belitz wants to separate objectives from actions in order to better address those objectives. Belitz asked Willard to send him this document and he would go through and separate objectives and goals. CBWG will then identify any more action items.
3. Follow up on DiPinto memo. Parra reported nothing new.
4. Phragmites NOI - Willard reported that Carlisle DPW has cut down and removed the dead Phragmites stalks and stored in a corner of the first sand pit near the bog House. Bakewell has been notified and he will come down to do treatment once new growth is spotted. Signs will need to be posted and a notification posted in the Mosquito to announce that a chemical treatment is taking place. Belitz asked that Willard thank the DPW.
5. Cranberry Bog Dam #1 CPA update – Parra reported that CPA deferred in order to get more information. Willard and Parra presented information and suggested completing the NOI and Dam safety filings. If approved CPA might get funds soon after Town Meeting and have the dam project go out to bid.
6. Beavers – Willard reported that the current beaver trapper backed out, but she found a new beaver business, Bestway Wildlife Management. Willard met with the new trapper today after

sharing information and images. Cost initially \$1500 but trapper felt like the final cost would be half that. The lodge has sunk over the last week. The trapper will use a cage type of trap. MA Fish and Wildlife wanted a Coniver trap, but that could trap and drown an unsuspecting dog. New sinkholes are appearing in Dam which is causing new safety concerns. The lodge has to be removed before repairs can begin, but the beavers have to be trapped before the beaver lodge can be removed. Trapping will start this week. The trail over the dam will be closed off for about a week.

7. Bog House Alarm – Willard reports that the CPA funding was refused, because there was already a system even though it isn't working ideally. Willard feels system will eventually be updated. She will talk with Municipal Buildings and Fire Chief and hopes to get funds through them.
8. Water Lily Control – Belitz prefaced that there has been a lot of growth over the last two years and feels that having a plan in place would be good for action. Acknowledged that interested community members were present. Belitz wondered about the water lily removal and disposal. Spinney suggested mowing like mowing lawn. The lily pads float and then could be scooped up. Spinney doesn't feel this would be a big disruption. When he pulled some out last year, he found they composted quickly. Spinney doesn't feel there would be enough lily pads harvested to create an composting issue. Spinney felt we should try do some manual control and see how effective it is. There are a few methods for cutting and the pond doesn't need to drained. Belitz asked Willard if we wanted to do a test section, do we need an NOI? Willard felt yes. Belitz suggested a 20 x 20 m section to cut, dispose, and see what it looked like. Parra felt it would need an NOI because it was a conservation area. Parra would need to be convinced that this was needed. Parra at this point doesn't think this should be done. He feels this is natural pond evolution. He feels we have so many maintenance obligations and this isn't as important. Provenzano and Young expressed that water lilies do harm the pond life and wildlife. Provenzano said volunteers are willing to do the work and felt the town should take advantage of it. Ballentine asked whether this was similar to buckthorn treatment at other town locations. Parra would like to hear how successful the Wrentham water lily treatment was. Parra feels the job is too big. Spinney wondered about chemicals/nutrients coming from upstream that may be spurring water lily growth. Ballentine said the citizens concerned about the lily pads would do their due diligence.
9. Community Input – none
10. Next meeting - May 9, 2022 at 7 pm

Adjourned at 8:05 pm

Approved on May 9, 2022

Submitted by Susan Provenzano