

Cranberry Bog Working Group  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2023 via Zoom

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Members Present: Alex Parra, Susan Provenzano, Helen Young, Brian Murphy

Conservation Administrator: Sylvia Willard

Public: Iva Mooney, Wanda Avril, Mark Barrow, Warren Lyman,  
Mark Barrow, John Ballentine, Ariella Rebbi, Mark Duffy

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Meeting began at 7:04 pm

Chair Murphy initiated the meeting by doing a roll call of all members, administrators, and public. He then recited the Massachusetts governor's order and rules for conducting public meetings remotely. This meeting will be covered by the minutes and not recorded. Murphy 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. May Minutes - Willard discussed some changes to the minutes and Parra moved to approve the edited minutes of May. The group approved the May minutes unanimously.
  
2. Mowing - Murphy commented that there are a lot of small maples coming up. In regards to the Phragmites, there is some growth so Willard is arranging for future treatment and will re-do the signs.
  
3. Water levels - Ballentine reviewed the data from the last 8 years and shared his screen showing the previous report by the Cranberry Bog Alternatives Committee. He then summarized the history of how we got to where we are now with the Cranberry Bog. Heart Pond controls the amount of water that comes to the bog. Ballentine then showed a map of the water shed and reviewed the flow of water from Heart Pond. He felt the main water went toward the Martin St. Pond and the Fiske St. Pond was secondary. He then discussed a 100 year flood. Then Ballentine showed a side view of Cranberry Bog Dam #1 where there was a 5 foot drop in water level from Heart Pond to Cranberry Bog Dam #1. Fiske St. Pond is significantly lower and that the Martin St. Pond will get the most water. Ballentine then briefly touched upon beavers and their control. He finished with how the farmer would do the heavy work and be the overall caretaker. The Friends group would handle less intense activities. The key is that all the members communicate.

4. Joint Meeting with Chelmsford - The Chelmsford Cons Com is willing to do a joint meeting with CBWG on June 20 at 7:00 or 7:30 pm. Willard reminded that Carlisle and Chelmsford met twice a year before COVID. Parra advised that the meeting would need to be posted. The meeting is more informational for both groups. Willard said that the meeting is always posted and minutes taken.
5. Cranberry Bog Dam #1 Repair - The report from Stamski and McNary will be peer reviewed before being accepted. That will delay the repair, but better to get the repair done correctly. Willard then read the questions that were being asked of the peer reviewers. There was some discussion between Willard and Murphy over the exact wording of the questions.
6. Bog Annual Maintenance Agreement - the agreement has yet to be signed as the Commission is waiting for the itemized bill from Mark Duffy. Some of the work noted in the agreement, mowing the bog, could not be done because the Notice of Intent has not yet been completed.
7. Bog House Report from Select Board --There is a meeting with the select Board scheduled for June 27, 2023 regarding the Bog House. A regular safety inspection of the bog house has been scheduled by the Land Stewardship Committee.
8. New Member - Ariella Rebbi sent a letter to become a member of the Cranberry Bog Working Group. She sent a resume and works in information technology and is a project manager. She enjoys volunteer work and this would be an opportunity to help with nature. Parra asked Willard if the charter had a limit for members. Parra made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Rebbi become a member of the CBWG. It passed unanimously.
9. Next Meeting - Parra commented that the next things would be the Dam #1 Peer Review and the Mowing NOI. Willard said she has done some work on the NOI, but needs to get more pictures and then get everything in order. Parra suggested that he or Murphy sit down with Willard to get it finished by the next meeting. The next meeting would be July 10, 2023 at 7 pm.
10. Lyman commented that he looked back and found that the group was required to have no fewer than 7 members. So there appears that there was no limit. Murphy suggested that we have alternates,; but they may have to attend all meetings in order to be considered for a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm

Joint meeting with Chelmsford Heart Pond Group June 20, 2023 via Zoom at 7 pm

Next CBWG meeting July 10, 2023 at 7 pm

Submitted by Susan Provenzano