

March 17, 2022 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

(conducted via Zoom)

Submitted: Sam Corda – March 16, 2023

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Deborah Masterson, Sophia Emperador, Jennifer Letourneau, Claudia Thompson, Adam Corbeil, Candace Young, Ann Roosevelt, David Lyons and Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton

Water Department (CWD) in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Tim Puopolo, Anna Van Dreser

Others in Attendance:

Duke Bitsko – Hatch; Josephine Mullan, Cambridge resident

Meeting opened at 6:09 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Switched item 7 and item 5.

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Claudia Thompson moved, and Janet Burns seconded the motion to approve the September 23, 2021, meeting minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3a: Volunteer Report/Plans

Ranger Tim Puopolo gave a presentation on 2021 volunteering at the reservation. Among the programs Tim devised, facilitated, or supported were virtual reservation wildlife sessions at CPS elementary and preschool programs; tapping Kingsley sugar maple trees with students, releasing Monarch butterflies raised at the Reservation; supervising days of service projects for local groups to remove invasive plants; supporting Friends of Fresh Pond's Fungi Walk and keeping a watchful eye on the Reservation's turtles owls and amphibians. For Tim's full report see

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2022/2021rangerreport.pdf>

3b. New Director of Water Operations, Julie Greenwood Torelli

Sam Corda introduced Julie who comes to us from the City of Methuen where she was Assistant Water Treatment Plant Supervisor and Lab Director

Item 4: Cambridge Community Development (CDD) Open Space Planning

Janice Snow reported that she emailed CDD Open Space Planner, Gary Chan, after she and four other Advisory Board members attended a virtual CDD presentation of City open spaces including the Reservation. They were concerned that Reservation areas were not designated as specially protected landscapes overseen by the Water Department and the Water Board. There

was a discussion of what next steps to take to work with CCD on this issue. Ann Roosevelt noted strict thresholds are set by state statute to allow changes to water supply open spaces. Janice will invite Gary to a Board meeting to discuss water supply land designation.

Item 5: Watershed Manager's Report

(1) Old Field-Birch Grove

Duke Bitsko gave a presentation to improve the Birch Grove seating area with a reduced footprint, removal of the asphalt edge, new paving, new trees and understory plantings, and a new drinking fountain. The presentation can be found using the link below:

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Agendas/2022/20220317_Hatch_Birch_Grove_Presentation.pdf

D. Masterson asked about any changes to the water fountain. D. Bitsko stated that the water fountain will be new.

A. Corbeil asked about opportunities for a bottle filler. D. Bitsko said that is an option, but has to support the reinstallation of the artistic bowl.

J. Snow discussed the process undertaken with the Cambridge Arts Council to originally install the ornate bowl to the existing water fountain.

D. Lyons asked about the composition of the stabilized aggregate material.

(2) Huron Forest Study Update: David Kaplan noted that a forest plan would need to support future construction work in the area and that a tree inventory would be part of an existing conditions survey.

J. Snow requested a list of trees picked up in the survey.

(3) Multi-use path status: The path is not technically open currently.

(4) DPW's Huron Ave sidewalk, roadway bike lanes & Tree Planting: The contract should be out to bid in a few weeks with an expected construction start in late spring. CWD will coordinate with DPW to minimize disruption to the Reservation.

(5) Black's Nook: The goal is a winter 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 project start. Light shoreline stabilization and planting will be needed along with the dredging. CWD is investigating alternate sources of funding available for dredging that could delist Black's Nook from the state impaired waters list. (319 grants)

(6) Landscape Management Report: Spring cleanup is underway including removing plow stakes. The crew is preparing for Friends of Cambridge Athletics (FOCA) 5k run on April 3.

97) Project Sequencing: Dave Kaplan asked the Board to consider prioritize the Pine Forest Phase 1 Project over Black's Nook dredging. Sam Cora noted that reduced institutional water use during the Pandemic has cut revenue by \$1 million and water main repair work and new carbon

filters had increased costs. In addition, CPA funding used on early projects is no longer available.

Pine Forest phase 1 would address drainage issues affecting the reservoir and ADA pathway compliance. Funding and priority discussions ensued. J. Snow recommended developing a conceptual plan for the entire Pine Forest project area before planning Phase 1.

D. Kaplan moved and C. Young seconded the motion to prioritize Huron Forest Phase 1 over Black's Nook dredging. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 6: Golf Course Landscape Report

Adam Corbeil noted that the playgrounds at Danehy have benefited from the removal of the invasive black locust trees from the Glacken slope project. These trees were repurposed into benches at the park.

In 2022 36,000 rounds of golf were played, down about 10,000 from 2021 when 50,000 rounds of golf were played. The course supported a number of community programs: including, youth programs, the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP), women's league, the high school varsity team, and off season use of the course.

The Golf Course is in the process of reviewing all buffer zones

Pollinator zones. We plan to work with Tim Puopolo to have kids come out after school to help plant milkweed and wildflowers in some buffer zones.

Currently the Golf Course has a membership to Audubon International and are working towards certification. J. Snow noted that Audubon International is affiliated the US Golf Association and has no ties with the National Audubon Society or the Mass Audubon Society.

Last year 66 trees were planted at the golf course.

We are removing the barbed wire fence along Huron Ave and replacing it with a black powder coated chain link fence.

This past off season golf course use included walkers, dogs, cross country skiing and snow shoeing.

Item 7: Council Policy Order Reviewing Reservation Golf Course Use

The Board discussed the Council's policy order. Sam Corda reported that there is nothing new to report.

Item 8: CDD Climate Action Plan

After reviewing CCD's Climate action plan regarding reservoir flooding, the Board recommended that CDD and the City Council confer with CWD regarding land use and flood protection around the water supply.

Item 9: Status of Naming Request for Drainage/Community Garden Project Area

Note: The January 20, 2020 Advisory Board letter formally recommended to the Manager that

the City “officially rename the above-described restored area of the Reservation after the late Water Board President, Dr. Joseph (Joe) John Harrington, as either Harrington Way or Harrington Gateway.”

Sam Corda reported no new information on this issue.

Item 10: Maynard Ecology Center Update

Sam Corda stated that his understanding was that the Maynard Ecology Center is memorialized as a CPS education space.

Item 11: Preliminary Agenda for May 19, 2022

Watershed Manager’s Report

Upcountry Reservoir Report

Status City Council Golf Course Review

2021 Volunteer Woodland Restoration Report and possible tour of the woodlands

Tour of Glacken Slope

Item 12: Public Comment

Candace Young moved, and Ann Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.