

September 15, 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, Sophia Emperador, Claudia Thompson, Jennifer Letourneau, Adam Corbeil, Candace Young, Ann Roosevelt, David Lyons, Deborah Masterson and Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Vincent Falcione, Jamie O'Connell, Tim Puopolo

Others in Attendance:

Meeting opened at 6:09 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Candace Young moved, and Sophia Emperador seconded the motion to approve the November 18, 2021, meeting minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3: 2022 Monarch Butterfly Project

Ranger Tim Puopolo gave an update on the 7th Annual Monarch Butterfly Release celebration at the Reservation on September 3. Tim had raised the caterpillars on milkweed in special boxes at the Treatment Plant. About 75 butterflies, 50 of them tagged were released in front of a large gathering of adults and children. WCVB TV aired a segment on the event.

Tim's presentation can be found using the link below:

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Agendas/2022/2021_RangerReport.pdf

Item 4: 2021 Fresh Pond Visitor Census Highlight Review

Jamie O'Connell gave a presentation on annual usage data collected from 7 sensors placed around the Reservation. No sensors are located in Kingsley Park. Based on sensor data and visual surveys, the conservatively estimated number of user visits to the Reservation in 2021 was 500,000. Visits in 2020 were higher likely a result of COVID. Shifts in usage occurred with time of day, days of week, time of year and location. J. Letourneau suggested that calculations be reviewed by a consultant, and video footage samples at a sensor could provide better verification of data accuracy.

The presentation can be found using the link below:

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2022/2021_ExecSummary_Final_FPABSummary.pptx

Item 5: FY22 & 23 Budgeting

FY2023 funding is limited. Revenue was reduced due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Available funding will be used for upcountry dam repair, pine forest planning, Little Fresh Pond shoreline stabilization, vegetation planting and maintenance, but not for Black's Nook. There was discussion as to whether CWD would apply for grants. There are both State and Federal grants available, particularly around PFAS filters. CWD will apply for any available grants/funds it is eligible for.

Item 6: Watershed Manager's Report

Huron Ave Reconstruction: The project has been slightly delayed due to supply chain issues in getting pipe.

Multi-use path status

We are continuing to work on signage and with DPW and DCR on responsibilities and maintenance of the multi-use path. \$150,000 of CPA funding has been allocated to the Arts Council to commission murals on the bridge abutments outside the Reservation.

Landscape Management Report:

Poison Ivy: Vinny Falcione spoke about poison ivy removal. A summer crew worked for about 36 hours to cut back the poison ivy to the Reservoir fence line.

Drought: Many plants reservation-wide have died due to the drought including some small caliper trees and shrubs.

White pine fungal disease has infected some pine trees near Lusitania Meadow.

Item 7: Mulching Issues:

C. Young discussed the benefits of some 20 years of using native leaf mulch in the Woodland Habitat management area. It has been very effective in retaining soil moisture and supporting native soil and plant life. Some batches however contain weed seeds. Vinny Falcione provided data from his supplier MB Bark Mulch which is a blend of 50% aged pine bark mulch and 50% leaf compost, suitable for native plant beds at the Reservation. Vinny has cautioned his contractor who at times has over applied this mulch. (Schumacher applies about 120 cu.yds per year) Vinny will consider planting more dense native ground cover plants in some areas as an alternative to mulching.

Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for November 17, 2022

Watershed Managers Report, Updates on Huron Ave and Pine Forest, Maynard Ecology Center Report, Golf Course Buffer Zones, Golf Course Winter Use

Item 9: 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 7:41pm.