

March 16, 2023 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

(conducted via Zoom)

Submitted: Sam Corda – May 18, 2023

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

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

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Ann Roosevelt, David Lyons

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Tim Puopolo, Omar Mejia

Others in Attendance:

Elizabeth Wylde

Meeting opened at 6:04 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

No changes proposed.

Item 2: Thanking Sam Corda

J. Snow spoke about attending Sam Corda's retirement party that was held at the Water Department. J. Letourneau and S. Agger offered their congratulations to Sam on his pending retirement, and thanked him for his service over the years.

Item 3: Minutes

March 17, 2022 Minutes: Motion to accept as amended D. Masterson, seconded D. Kaplan. Approved unanimously.

May 19, 2022 Minutes: Motion to accept as presented C. Young, seconded D. Kaplan. Approved unanimously.

September 15, 2022: Motion to accept as amended D. Masterson, seconded C. Young. Approved unanimously.

Nov. 18, 2022 Minutes: Motion to accept as amended D. Kaplan, seconded C. Young. Approved unanimously.

Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report

Introducing new Ranger, Omar Mejia:

D. Kaplan introduced Omar Mejia as the new Ranger at Fresh Pond. O. Mejia then briefly spoke about his experience including his previous work as a park ranger.

Status of other projects within, along Reservation

Huron Forest Phase 1 Project Update; inventory reports:

Existing conditions survey has been completed. Copies of the survey will be available shortly.

Little Fresh Pond: We continue the permitting process with DEP for shoreline reconstruction work. There is an additional permitting step due to the dredging work being within 400 feet of a water supply.

Landscape Management Report

Experience of using deer deterrent spray, Oh Deer, & future options:

The Water Department is looking to move the process in house by purchasing equipment and training staff. T. Puopolo stated that there were 3 deer that overwintered at the Reservation, which is a new development. He said that a population count wouldn't be possible until late April or early May. J. Snow asked if there was concern over increased ticks due to the deer population. T. Puopolo stated that we have not had any reported incidents of ticks from the Reservation.

Item 5: Annual Volunteer Report/Plans

T. Puopolo gave an update on 2022 projects. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, volunteer and outreach was minimal. Most events were of day of service groups of 10 to 25 people for no more than 2 hours. Neville place will be "adopting" a small space near the butterfly meadow to clean up, and remove invasive species.

T. Puopolo expects to return to public offerings around volunteer and outreach for 2023. The first day of service will kick off in May with 24 people from Kolide Corp who will remove invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard.

The Rangers are working with Earth Watch's City Nature Challenge Citizen Science Project.

C. Thompson commented on the water birds especially loons flourishing over this past winter. General discussion ensued of water birds at the pond.

D. Kaplan spoke about the year-round aeration of Fresh Pond. S. Corda then explained this reduced stratification in the pond. J. Greenwood-Torelli explained that operationally this was done to prevent seasonal "turn over" that caused high turbidity when pulling water into the treatment plant.

Item 6: Friends of Fresh Pond 2022 Woodland Habit Report

E. Wylde and C. Young spoke about Suzanna Black who has been a longtime volunteer who has moved to Virginia. J. Snow suggested a letter of appreciation be drafted for S. Black.

E. Wylde stated she is anxious to see how the plants survived the winter and the deer. She stated that an area called the "corner" was devastated by deer and hoped to add it to the Oh Deer spraying schedule. Rabbits have also been a problem.

C. Young spoke about invasive species in the habitat. She stated that long term commitment by volunteers is needed to keep the habitat in its current state. See attached "The Woodland Restoration Projects: 2022 Report:

J. Burns asked if using a fence, such as the one used by Garden in the Woods should be explored. T. Puopolo stated that at least an 8-foot fence would be needed. D. Kaplan will look into materials and pricing. Discussion ensued.

Item 7: Buffer/Transition Zones within the Reservation

J. Snow proposed adding a small section to the Fresh Pond Reservation Sustainable Landscape Management Plan that defines and summarizes best practices for creating buffer zones and how to maintain them. She also spoke about the different types of buffer zones and transitions zones.

Item 8: Stewardship Awards Recommendations

J. Snow asked for nominations to be emailed to her.

Item 9: Preliminary Agenda for May 18, 2023

Watershed Manager's Report; Upcountry Reservoir Report; Golf Course Landscape Report; Condition of trees planned in Pat Pratt and C. Norton groves; Stewardship Awards; 2023-2024 Term Proposed Meeting Schedule

Item 10: Public Comment: No public comment

David Kaplan moved, and Candace Young seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.