

## **May 15, 2025 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

(Hybrid Meeting – Remote, In-person)

Submitted by David Kaplan, November 20, 2025

Approved: November 20, 2025

### Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

In-person: Janice Snow (Chair), Sophia Emperador, Adam Corbeil, Susan Agger, David Kaplan, Janet Burns

Remote: Ann Roosevelt, Jennifer Letourneau, Deborah Masterson

### Others in Attendance:

In-person: Vincent Falcione (CWD)

Remote: Omar Mejia (CWD), “Catiana” (Public)

Meeting opened 6:07 PM

Meeting Minutes: D. Kaplan

### **Tour of Woodland Habitat Prior to Meeting *weather permitting* 5 pm to 6:00 pm**

(Woodland Restoration is fenced habitat located along N side of Perimeter Road between Treatment Plant and Lusitania Meadow) – ***Postponed to before September Meeting***

### **Item 1: Review Agenda**

No changes proposed. Later discussion identified two errors. Item 7 should read 2025-2026, not 2024-2025, and Item 8 should read “September 18, 2025”, not September 18, 2026. The minutes reflect those changes.

### **Item 2: Meeting Minutes**

*March 20, 2025 Minutes:* J. Snow submitted edits. A. Roosevelt commented that per Item 8, Owen O’Riordan is retiring and the status of renaming Tudor Park is unknown.

A. Roosevelt moved and D. Masterson seconded motion to approve minutes as edited. Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Item 3: Golf Course Landscape Report (A. Corbeil)**

Director of Recreation Adam Corbeil presented an updated 2024 annual landscape report regarding management of the Fresh Pond Golf Course. A copy of the presentation is available here

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/->

[/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2025/2025\\_FreshPondGC\\_LandscapeReport.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2025/2025_FreshPondGC_LandscapeReport.pdf)

A. Corbeil discussed the new golf pro (Jo-Anna Krupa) who managed over 54,000 rounds of golf in 2024. Fresh Pond Golf Course (FPGC) staff is working with the Cambridge School Department to encourage more youth participation and access to the Golf Course. Programs include Jr. PGA, Veterans, High School, and others that increase access. A. Roosevelt applauded programming and asked about increasing public awareness around them. A. Corbeil discussed what’s currently being done to get the word out and how they plan to improve their communications.

Regarding turf management, FPGC is working with Kleinfelder and Pine and Swallow to review maintenance practices and develop recommendations to reduce potential environmental impacts from daily management/maintenance. Goals include promoting environmental health, maintaining a dense turf stand, outgrowing diseases, and maintaining course playability through focusing on nutrition to build soil

biology, improved cultural practices, minimizing approved chemical applications and increasing best practices knowledge base.

A. Roosevelt asked about nutrient guidelines and if water supplies get additional protections. D. Kaplan confirmed that nutrient application setbacks increase around water bodies used for drinking water. A. Corbeil mentioned that FPGC tested and rejected a fertilizer containing PFAS, and are using one tested and confirmed to be PFAS-free. J. Snow discussed groundwater impacts from chemical inputs. She noted that golf courses and turf fields are regulated by the state the same as rural agricultural lands and thinks groundwater testing requirements for these chemicals especially near water supplies is insufficient.

D. Kaplan mentioned that CWD monitors the golf course ponds quarterly for nutrients, and chlorophyll-A to determine pond eutrophication status. Results are compared to state ambient water quality standards and published annually on the Water Department website.

J. Letourneau is facilitating the work between the golf course and their consultants and is helping review the draft report before it is released and shared with the public.

A. Corbeil discussed invasives work and recent tree planting. Eastern red cedars planted on the north side of Little Fresh Pond did not survive and are looking for replacements. Soil pH could have impacted the success of the plantings, but wind burn likely did them in. Conversation moved to purple loosestrife and the galerucella beetle bio-control. No beetles have been released recently, but they continue to help manage loosestrife populations.

The golf course club house was recently dedicated to Paul Ryder, former Recreation Director and Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board member, for his positive impacts to the community.

#### **Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report (D. Kaplan)**

D. Kaplan discussed updates to the Huron Pine Grove study and explained the specific treatments for each test plot. The plant list was developed with input from the Planting Subcommittee. Plot 1 will be planted and fenced with no soil additives. Plot 2 will be planted and fenced with bio-char soil additive. Plot 3 will be planted but not fenced, with no soil additives. Plot 4 will be planted and fenced with mycorrhizae soil additives. Plot 5 will be planted and fenced with both bio-char and mycorrhizae soil additives. S. Agger identified an error in the plan as presented noting that Plots 1 and 2 are shown to have the same treatment. The error was noted and rectified. Pines will be watered for establishment.

Discussion continued around the potential causes for the lack of white pine understory (rabbits, possible buckthorn allelopathy). It was suggested that other invasive trees like Norway Maples may be negatively contributing. V. Falcione mentioned that even invasive species greater than 6" DBH cannot be removed under the City's tree protection ordinance. S. Emperador who is on the Public Planting Committee said that there is a five-year review of the Urban Forest Master Plan and will ask about exemptions for Fresh Pond Reservation under that process. J. Letourneau stated that the DPW Urban Forestry division is considering removing invasive Norway maple trees at Raymon Park, so there may be a shift in the accepted approach to managing invasive tree species within the City, but a full review and approval is still needed.

D. Kaplan updated the Board on the Little Fresh Pond in-lake study. Ken Wager (Water Resource Services) through Hatch will be conducting the study throughout this growing season that will assess water quality, plankton, and macrophytes and make recommendations for maintaining this open water body.

Discussion ensued on monitoring cyanobacteria in both Little Fresh and Fresh Pond Reservoir and impacts thereto. J. Letourneau mentioned that Solitude Lake Management has been successful in assessing and managing in-lake issues for the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

V. Falcione reported that Liam Spratt recently started as the new Reservation Working Foreman and that the Water Department has a new Landscape maintenance contractor. Cambridge Landscape which has replaced Schumacher has been more successful incorporating electric landscape maintenance equipment. Swans at Little Fresh Pond did not lay eggs this year. CWD is still working with Essex Horticulture for routine invasives management and V. Falcione is starting to see improvement in some areas, but it's a long process just to manage, and not eradicate.

**Item 5: Proposed New Buffer/Transition Zones Section to 2019 Master Plan Plant List Update**

J. Snow introduced the third iteration of this section of the Fresh Pond Sustainable Landscape Management Plan. Soils are discussed in the current document, but habitat transitions and their impact are not. This document attempts to identify zones and provide management strategies to avoid plant issues. An example of a transition zone at the Reservation is the Pine Forest woodland edge with the grassed area along Huron Ave. A. Corbeil asked for clarification on managed turf transition zones. J. Snow suggested that significant trees need to be managed to the drip line, further explaining that pH adjusters, fertilizers, etc. used for turf management where turf extends to the tree trunk could negatively impact significant trees. J. Letourneau stated that she did not receive the document in time for a significant review and asked for more time to review prior to a vote. The Board was amendable to delaying the vote until the September meeting. A. Corbeil would also like more time to understand the implications and potential conflicts of adopting this document on their work to reduce environmental impacts from golf course maintenance practices. C. Young asked for Fresh Pond habitat maps, which D. Kaplan will send to the Board.

**Item 6: Fresh Pond Day, June 14 Planning & Board Sign-Up**

J. Snow stated that Fresh Pond Day is Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> and suggested that Board focus on the Pine Forest restoration project at the table. Hatch will be at the adjacent table to facilitate information sharing. Coordination discussions ensued.

**Item 7: 2025-2026 Term Proposed Meeting Schedule**

The schedule will be the third Thursdays, September 18, 2025, November, 20, 2025, March 19, 2026, May 21, 2026. J. Snow asked D. Kaplan if there were any conflicting Jewish Holidays. D. Kaplan did not know off the top of his head.

**Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for Sept 18, 2025**

Huron Pine Forest update, M. Gallagher invited to discuss budget, Little Fresh Pond study results, T. Puopolo Monarch report, J. O'Connell to target an Upcountry watershed report, Habitat tour will be scheduled prior to the meeting.

**Item 9: Public Comment**

No public comment.

D. Masterson motioned, A. Roosevelt second, meeting adjourned 7:46pm.