

***Puffer's Pond 2020 Committee***  
***MINUTES***  
**Thursday, November 12, 2009**  
**First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** M. Sharma, D. Webber, E. Hamin, B. Angus, E. Jones, J. Pistrang, A. Hayden, J. Patulek, P. Muska, E. Shopper, M. Gage

**Staff:** D. Ziomek

Meeting Convened at 7:06 pm

**1. Committee Administrative Business**

The role of recording meeting minutes was assigned to P. Muska

The minutes from the previous committee meeting, held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, were discussed and approved, and a copy of the previous meeting's minutes was included in the meeting handouts.

A new Puffer's Pond 2020 Committee member, Mary Sharma, was introduced to the committee and reminded to be sworn in with the Town Clerk.

**2. Notes/Comments about handouts**

All committee members were given a series of handouts upon entering the meeting. D. Ziomek gave an overview of the handouts which included notes from the public forums, the committee's visions of Puffer's Pond, the Puffer's Pond management plan, information regarding liability and fees, preliminary survey results, several maps and other general information about the pond.

**3. Overview of potential LARP studio**

E. Hamin described a potential study of the Puffer's Pond area by University of Massachusetts LARP students. The group would look at various design options as part of a LARP greenways studio in late winter/early spring of 2010.

The committee voted to allow students to conduct the study and present greenway project.

The committee decided to invite students to do an initial presentation and proposal at the next meeting, in December, and also discussed the possibility of forming a subcommittee to manage the LARP studio.

**4. General Observations- public goals and concerns for pond**

The committee reviewed public meeting outcomes by discussing members' impressions and opinions about the two public forums held in October.

Eventually, the conversations lead to a discussion on the balance of conservation versus preservation, and the committee decided to identify some baseline actions for the pond.

Due to the overwhelming amount of discourse needed for each action, the committee quickly realized the need to break this task up in order to justly decide on the baseline actions.

D. Webber proposed a matrix to help each committee member sort out the necessary versus the optional, and the cheap versus the feasible. After some debate and discussion, the committee adapted the matrix to sort the information as ecological versus recreational and cheap versus expensive.

Ex:

	Cheap	Expensive
Ecological		
Recreational		

B. Angus suggested the option to break into subcommittees in order to tackle all of the issues, in which each subcommittee would consider creating a summary, suggestions and completing the matrix. After this process, the committee could use this information to inform the process of generating different scenarios and their feasibility.

A. Hayden suggested breaking up into the various categories of Asphalt (traffic, parking, etc.), Water Quality, Beaches, and Trails (including other non-water related activities).

The committee decided to go forward in this direction and began discussing the guidelines for which each member would base their summary, suggestions and matrix.

After ample discussion and debate, the committee decided on the following guidelines:

- Ecology should remain the same or better
- Design to direct impacts/target impacts

- Manage or reduce the number of people at the pond during peak times

At this point the committee had an in depth discussion about the limitations and accessibility of the pond before returning to generating the list of guidelines for our decision making process.

- Do not provide more parking than is now available
- Maintain/Achieve an adequate level of staffing
- Maintain an adequate level of infrastructure
- Financial resources should not create a barrier to access
- Aesthetics matter
- Safety results must be the same or better

Subcommittees were assigned based on the previously decided categories:

**Asphalt:** E. Shopper, A. Hayden, D. Webber

**Trails/Non-Water Uses:** D. Webber, M. Gage, J. Pistrang, P. Muska

**Water Quality:** E. Jones, M. Sharma, B. Angus

**Beaches:** E. Jones, J. Patulek, M. Sharma

E. Hamin directed the subcommittees to use the guidelines created during this meeting as principles to help identify key problems, develop solutions and complete a matrix.

Reports from each subcommittee are due for the next meeting in December.

#### **5. Agenda items for next meeting**

LARP Studio proposal and initial presentation  
Subcommittee report presentations

Meeting adjourned at 9:09