

Puffer's Pond 2020 Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, January 7, 2010
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

In attendance; Briony Angus (Conservation Commission), Meg Gage, Elisabeth Hamlin (Chair, Conservation Commission), Aaron Hayden (SB), Emlen Jones, Paris Muska, Jim Patulek (LSSE), Mary Sharma, Evan Shopper, David Weber (Planning Board), David Ziomek (ex officio Conservation & Planning Dept)

1. Minutes of December 16th: A Hayden moved to accept as presented, D Weber seconded: Discussion on some details, approved without objection.
2. Review Town Counsel's response to questions - will be ready for next meeting. Town Counsel will present observations and answer questions at the next meeting.
3. Additional Sub-committee reports—Trails sub-committee, P. Muska described the need to explore questions around the cliff more fully:
 - Liability
 - Damage from use
 - Danger
 - Illegal activities
 - Fence repair
 - Better collaboration with Amherst Police Department
 - Regulations enforcement
 - Means to discourage people from climbing them

Hydro-power, B Angus presented memo on the issues with hydro-power:

- Expensive
- Recent reduction of available grants
- Need for \$8-15k feasibility study to even get started
- Difficulty in permitting

Discussion:

- ZBA killed similar project in last step of permitting in 1982
- PP 2020 should recommend despite difficulties
- Some synergy possible with study of nearby dam for hydro
- Likely need to partner with third party for funding etc.

4. "Ultra" Sub committee report – P. Muska presented committee matrix, A. Hayden reported on process that developed matrix from sub-committee reports and additional brainstorming with 5 clusters of ideas - essentially 5 different recommendations for the Plenary to consider presenting to the Conservation Commission:

1. Non-contingent recommendations, things that need to be done whatever level of access is provided.
2. Maximum Conservation (A category not from any sub-committee but made up by the Ultra Committee), things that would allow the pond to revert to a truly natural state, a silting in pond.
3. Mostly Conservation, ways to reduce the impact and amount of use.
4. Current Level, ways to maintain current level of use and improve environmental quality of Pond.
5. Max Recreation (another category beyond any sub-committee's report) ways to allow more people to use the pond and stabilize the environment somewhat less naturally.

Discussion: Tested the form and categories with the meeting. Detailed comments on individual cells to be sent to A Hayden by next Thursday, Jan 14, for collation and transmission to plenary for their review and comment at the next meeting. Some categories of ideas that were briefly discussed but not in any sub-committee report were added as place holders. PP 2020 Committee was invited to fill in and correct them along with everything else.

Other "non-pond" issues that were not part of the 5 sub-committees' reports but were discussed in other meetings will be collected by M. Gage for presentation at our next meeting. Issues like the effect of opening other pools would have on decreasing the pressure on the Pond's use, changing the Puffer's Pond Culture to something more constructive than today, developing nature camps with a focus on the Pond.

5. Vote on recommended scenario postponed until Ultra matrix is updated and we have heard the Town Council's report.

6. Next Steps:

E. Hamin will draft a mid-term report for the Conservation Commission 2/24 meeting describing the PP 2020 status, process, philosophical basis, and mission statement which will also be a starting point for creating the final report. The PP 2020 Committee will review and comment on the report at our next meeting. The report is also intended to be used to update the other 3 representative committees; LSSE, Planning Board and Select Board.

Next meetings (the dates are real the agendas are inferred from the discussion);

Feb 4

- ~ Presentation by Town Counsel
- ~ Review of Midterm report
- ~ Review of list non-pond issues
- ~ Review of updated ultra matrix
- ~ Select dates for public forum in April

Mar 4

- ~ Presentation by LARP studio

- ~ Prepare for Public forum
- ~ Review any further update to ultra matrix
- ~ Update mid-term report moving it towards final form (including recommendation based Town Counsel's presentation)

April 1

- ~ Prepare special fool's edition of report
- ~ Finalize preparations for public forum

April sometime- Public Forum

May 6

- ~ Finalize report to Conservation Commission to include data collected in Public Forum
- ~ Drink champagne in celebration of a job well done

Adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted;

Aaron Hayden, Scribe pro tempore