

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
November 7, 2013

Peg Arguimbau, Chairman, Keevin Geller, Linda Orel, Stephen Cremer, and Elizabeth McGrath were the members present. Conservation Commission Member Christine Turnbull and Hank Langstroth were absent from the meeting. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

7.45 p.m.: Fred Bottomley, Cranberry Bogs

Lease holder of Sharon Cranberry Bogs. Mr. Bottomley last met with the commission regarding the cranberry bogs last fall on October 18th, then again on November 15th. At the October 18th meeting there was a unanimous vote of the Commission to conceptualize what Bottomley presented. This plan was then formalized at the November 15th meeting, subject to the Congress Group supplying Tom Houston with drainage calculations on the roadway. Bottomley phoned Meister throughout spring and summer – (thought what was going on... Congress Group no longer owners of property.) Embarrassed not getting new owners to give Tom Houston information. Bottomley finally received federal approval from the USDA for the farm plan. Plan was passed out to Commission members titled: Sharon Bog, Plan Map. Fairland Farms LLC Farm 2209 tract 2267.

New owners reaffirmed 61A with Assessors office prior to October 1st. There are 2 new owners. Primary property is Cranberry Place LLC and back part of bogs and residual land of what used to be owned by Congress Group is 95 LLC. Handed out document from Secretary of State Website of the new owners.

Cranberry Place LLC has retained Bob Shelmerdine. Bottomley met last Friday with Kelly from CHA and Shelmerdine. Drainage calculations will be forwarded to Houston. Shelmerdine is putting together easement document to Town of Sharon to the Conservation Commission. Kelly is working on stabilization and maintenance plan. Bottomley has walked the bogs and mowed the area. He has not seen any silting into the bogs.

Reports should be submitted within the next three weeks. Would like to provide a time schedule for work activity in the bog area. All erosion control needs to be redone, especially around the bogs. New owners are aware of previous orders of conditions.

First year Sharon bogs in complete compliance through GAP. At this point what is the long term disposition of bogs? Shelmerdine believes it is still the same, owners committed to conveying the cranberry bogs to the town pursuant to permits from the upper parcel.

What is Intoccia position with new owners? Local group does not include Intoccia as a principal. He is involved in the group but is not as a principal.

Set up an appointment in January for Bottomley to return.

8:00 p.m.: Cliff Towner and Noah Segal – Lake Management Committee

Lake Management Committee is a standing Town Committee which was created by town meeting. The budget is under the Fincom. There are 6 appointed members: 2 from ConCom, 2 from the BOS, and 2 from the Planning Board.

Independent committee deals with lake issues.

Most important thing at this point is Fanwort . For the first time, new growth has been found. Fanwort has been in lake since 2001 (from an aquarium dumping). Found again in 2003, which Lycott removed. Then again found and removed in 2008. Milfoil is also in the lake. Not a bad thing. It puts oxygen in water and creates a habitat for big and small fish. Fanwort is chopped and split by boats propellers, by which the fanwort spreads.

This year found new plants. With permission of Town Counsel, once again phoned Lycott to assist in the fanwort removal. A report has been prepared and hopefully in the summer of 2014, this new growth of fanwort will be removed, although difficult to remove in its entirety. Many ponds have Fanwort and have been unsuccessful in its removal.

Towner was at the boat launch through the summer. On several occasions he found fanwort on trailers. In his opinion, there is no way under the present circumstances, lack of support (police, money and ConCom), that the spread of fanwort can be controlled. Boat Launch area – Rec Directors hands are tied. Their department consists of only 3 full time employees. Summer help is comprised of high school students. Lake staff begins work around 10am, while many of the bass boats enter the lake earlier, 6am. If the gate is locked then the town will lose a great resource (State). It is Towner's opinion that this can all be corrected if there was a will to do so.

About half of the boat passes sold are to non-residents. Many of those boats are bass boats. The fisherman are coming from other ponds due to the clarity, visibility and great fishing which Lake Massapoag offers.

Law CH. 444 allows for the Town police to ticket violators (those boats and trailers with invasive weeds). Those fines could be \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second, \$300 for the third, and so on. If the Town Administrator instructed the police to ticket (enforcement), it would go a long way. As it stands now, cars are parked in the boat launch with trailers, which have no working lights, no wiring, no plates, and nothing is done.

Suggestions from Towner regarding the residents who live around the lake

- Ban all shore line launching with the exception of the yachtclub and boat launch.

The cost to remove the fanwort is approximately \$25K to \$30K.

Towner discussed the Asian Clams. They have no means of propulsion. Clams have been found along the shoreline of Massapoag Ave. In Towner's opinion, he believes the clams were introduced into the lake from Jet Skis via a private launch, approximately 1000 feet from the boat launch. Suggests that Jet Skis be banned from the lake. The ConCom has the power to ban Jet Skis.

Towner explained that at this time the lake is full of spring water and nutrient poor. Because of this, the clams have died, as well as many of the pond mussels. Does not foresee a problem with the Asian Clams, just the shells that have been left behind.

At one time there were seven streams entering the lake. Currently there is only one stream. Discussions about well pumping have been ignored. The lake is currently out of balance. The Lake Committee may ask to come in front of ConCom in the spring and propose changes to the management plan as well as change the order of conditions.

Does not seem worried about Zebra mussels due to the Ph balance of the lake.

Towner thanked the Department of Health for their continuing assistance, especially with their help in testing the water quality of the Lake.

Other business: 25 Sturges Road is not ready.

Email received from the Trustees of the Reservation regarding installation of solar panels on part of their property to which the Conservation Commission holds a conservation restriction. The Commission requested for a representative to come to the next meeting to explain their proposed project.

Documents and 2 warrants signed.

Vote to enter into executive session and adjourn upon completion of executive session. McGrath, Cremer

McGrath – Aye

Cremer – Aye

Geller – Aye

Arguimbau – Aye

Orel - Aye

Enter into Executive Session at 9:05PM