

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission

Friday April 14, 2023

Present: Roxanne McCaffrey (RM), Michael Nathan (MN), John Loiodice (JL) and Sally Underwood-Miller (SUM).

Absent: Mike Buffoni (MB), Patrick White (PW), Gary Kleinerman

Present via ZOOM: Anita Schwerner

The meeting was called to order by Roxanne McCaffrey at 8:04 a.m.

- Approval of March 31, 2023 minutes. RM apologized for not getting the minutes completed; they will be placed on the agenda for approval at the next meeting
- Discussion of public awareness and education plans

The next meeting was scheduled for April 28, 2023.

GK – Zebra Mussel Committee update – Gary said they can distribute information at the boat ramp and also at Bullard Woods since there is a new kiosk coming in. RM asked if there were any updates on public awareness/education – no other updates.

- Discussion of potential expansion of weed harvesting.

RM passed out a brochure she created “Protecting Your Investment” which needs to be reviewed.

SUM requested that the 200-foot buffer zone be mentioned in regards to proper disposal of hazardous wastes. She stated that if pesticides or herbicides want to be used within 200 feet of the lake a permit is required.

MN pointed out that fertilizers should not be used; SUM clarified that they should not be used within 200 feet of any resource area (water bodies).

JL brought up the difficulty in disposing of hazardous waste. MN suggested adding specific information about how to do so. It was generally discussed that the availability of hazardous waste is inadequate at present.

SUM mentioned the Lake and Pond Overlay district 35-foot vegetative buffer requirement. She also said that we hope people will be good stewards and adhere to the bylaw requirements.

RM mentioned that perhaps chemical fertilizer companies could be notified about bylaw prohibitions – SUM stated she had written to them.

Discussing septic system maintenance, SUM asked what is regular maintenance? Discussion ensued and RM added that different septic systems have different requirements i.e. old vs. new and Title V forces inspection when property is transferred; failed systems are required to be corrected within a time limit. JL said that the Sewer and Water (S & W) Commission has discussed inspections with Tri-Town Health. RM said she thought this was a topic to be handled by the S&W Commission. SUM said Title V went into effect in 2006. SUM added that if someone is undergoing chemotherapy, the septic system should be pumped since the chemo kills the beneficial bacteria required for decomposition. RM mentioned that there may be a way other than pumping to revive a system i.e. adding bacterial products. JL expressed concern about enforcement of septic maintenance, RM said the town could develop a bylaw in order to have enforcement power, but asked then how do you enforce this? JL said that the Sewer department may know of problematic systems; perhaps a letter could go out to people about inspecting their systems.

SUM emphasized that people need to contact the Conservation Commission for information saying “we are not the bad guys”. At the beginning of every meeting at 7:00 pm the Conservation Commission gives the opportunity for people to come in and ask questions.

SUM also expressed that Zebra Mussel awareness be added.

RM said she would make modifications as discussed to the brochure.

- Stakeholder updates

Water Dept. – Mike Buffoni – No updates

Water and Sewer Commission – John Loiodice – no updates

Conservation Commission – Sally Underwood-Miller – The Conservation Commission brochure is ready for printing. There will be a rack for brochures by the Police Station.

Stockbridge Bowl Association – Michael Nathan – no updates

Select Board – Patrick White – no updates.

Stockbridge Harbormaster – Gary Kleinerman – no updates

Stockbridge Sportsman’s Club - Roxanne McCaffrey – no updates

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne McCaffrey