**Dudley Pond Association Executive Committee Board Meeting**

**February 1, 2021**

(via Google Meet)

Attendees: Doron Almog, Eric Macklin, Jamie Pierce, Lisa Jacobs, Mike Margossian, Tim Dreher, Naomi Deutscher. Guests: Norm Marowitz, Bob Smith, Wendy Gendron- Aquatic Ecologist

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Wendy Gendron from ARC summarized her report after surveying Dudley Pond over the summer. After review and Q & A from the board, we discussed our options for the next few years.

**Pond Survey report overview**

Wendy, who has over 25 years of experience as an Aquatic Ecologist, summarized Dudley Pond as being a pond with very clear water which allows sunlight to hit the bottom - great for growth, giving us a huge rooted plant problem. There is also a lot of sediment, as much as 14 feet in the deeper parts, which adds to the plant growth. Our previous treatments using herbicide and handpulling have worked pretty effectively to minimize the milfoil. Wendy found 3 areas of milfoil concentration which will require another treatment in a few years, and suggests continued handpulling until then.

Filling the void where milfoil was prevalent is our new nemesis- tapegrass which is a native species, not invasive, but more of a problem for recreational use. It easily reproduces, has properties that allow it to survive over the winter and even spark new growth. It’s hard to kill with herbicide- it may respond to a systemic herbicide which kills the inner structure while leaving the plants around it untouched.

There is a Mass. Wetlands Control Act and its Control of Nuisance Natives which defines how to handle this type of plant. Each town’s Conservation Commission has a different way of controlling this- usually some kind of driver assisted suction device (DASH) to eliminate the tapegrass, known scientifically as Valsinaria. Norm Marowitz has submitted a new Order of Conditions to the conservation commission. Valsinaria has been found in Lake Shirley; Norm has been researching how they have been handling it.

Wendy emphasized the point that there is no silver bullet; we will always have weeds in our pond. It’s just a question of which ones to manage. The purchase of a harvester which can cut and scoop up the tapegrass may be one of the best options. This will take a few years since the Town of Wayland and the Commonwealth of Mass. will be involved in the process. Renting a harvester may be the best interim solution.

Other options include 1) Plant replacement: Plants such as Kara and Nitella create dense beds which may crowd out the Valsinaria. This can be done in sections of the pond to determine its effectiveness, but long term results are mixed and there hasn’t been much follow up. And 2) Hydroraking which grabs roots, is very destructive and very expensive.

Whichever option we decide to pursue, we will enlist the help of former resident Ted Fiust who is an aquatic plant specialist and has many years experiencing the depths of Dudley Pond. SWQ’s budget will cover his costs. Wendy can help advise us about the direction we choose and she can come back with underwater cameras to judge it effectiveness.

Norm will present this report and its findings at the DPA Spring meeting. We have invited Wendy to join us to answer any questions from the membership.

**DPA Spring Meeting & Newsletter**

The next DPA membership meeting is April 25 (via Zoom). We will elect new officers, discuss the new pond report and review the budget. Lisa will send out a “save the date” eblast in March, and the BOD team will create the next newsletter electronically to include the presidents message, some pictures, the treasurer’s report and a summary and link to the Pond Survey report.

**A new Facebook page?**

Tim Dreher wants to create a non-DPA facebook page to coordinate activities on the pond that are not DPA sponsored/sanctioned. Just a central location where our neighbors can suggest, organize and participate in pond activities which are not DPA related, just DP related. Tim will check with Cheryl Kreinbring who manages our facebook page and report on it at the next meeting. We currently have about 330 facebook followers.

Next meeting March. 1, 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jacobs

Secretary