**Dudley Pond Association Executive Committee Board Meeting**

**Sept 28, 2021**

(via Zoom)

Attendees: Doron Almog, Eric Macklin, Jamie Pierce, Lisa Jacobs, Tim Dreher, Naomi Deutscher. Guests: Bob Smith, Norm Marowitz, Ann Drouilhet, Marcia Filiurin.

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm.

This special meeting will focus on whether the DPA will purchase its own harvester and the financial info needed for the full membership to vote on it at the fall meeting on Oct. 24

**Harvesting the Pond**

Norm presented the several issues that could justify the purchase of our own harvester:

**-Control over start dates and amount of harvesting needed over the course of a summer:**

Our outside contractor needed a few months lead time to schedule the harvesting and we could not predict when the weeds would explode or the type and severity of the spread. The contractor could only schedule 20 days and we probably needed 40.

-**Cost of an outside contractor to do the harvesting**

Our one harvester source was going to charge us $37,500 for 20 days and we needed 40 ($75,000 total)

**-Lower Costs in house**

An analysis showed that purchasing the harvester and leasing it to the town would lower costs to both the Town of Wayland and the DPA

**-DPW buy-in**

DPW said they are interested in discussing the operation, maintenance and storage of the harvester for the DPA.

-**Avoiding the capital budgeting process**

If the Town were to buy the harvester, they would have to go through the capital budgeting process which could add a few years to the decision and require a vote at Town meetings

The DPA has the opportunity to purchase a newly refurbished Harvester – the same one that we used to cut the weeds in August, 2021. The harvester will cost around $80,000 -about half the price of a new one. We are talking to the DPW about operating, maintaining, and storing it **which the DPA does not want to do.** By purchasing the harvester, the DPA would then lease it out to the Town to remove our weeds. That yearly lease income could provide a 3-5 year payback of our original investment. The DPA membership will need to vote on an expenditure this size and we will bring it up at the Oct. 24 Fall meeting.

We have received a favorable response from both the Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee and the DPW. But more information needs to be gathered and reviewed before the proposal can be put together. Norm, Jamie & Bob Smith are working on getting all that information. The Town of Wellesley owns and operates its own harvester and we will incorporate their experiences as well. The ultimate goal is to have the town of Wayland take over the whole operation after a number of years, as they do in Wellesley.

There are ongoing discussions about who the operators will be, how it will be maintained at DPW, what the DPA will be responsible for, what type of insurance is needed, whether we will have all the accessory equipment needed for our ponds’ requirements, etc. There is also a Public-Private partnership available which might provide us with more benefits- TBD. And there will also need to be a public comment period. Many of these issues may not be resolved before the Fall meeting but we will have another board meeting on Oct. 6 to get as much information to present to the full membership.

Our Order of Conditions provide for cutting and harvesting through 2023.

Norm will be putting numbers to the proposal and getting as many questions answered before the next meeting. We will include this proposal in the newsletter which will go out shortly after the Oct. 6 BOD meeting. Lisa will then send an eblast to the membership reviewing all this information before the Oct. 24 meeting.

Next meeting: Oct. 6, 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jacobs,

Secretary