

Draft copy of January 14th, 2013 Minutes of Water Mill CAC

**Minutes are not official until reviewed by WMCAC members and
approved at next scheduled meeting**

[Web site-www.ourwatermill.org](http://www.ourwatermill.org)

Members present: Rachel Verno, Steve Abramson, Marlene Haresign, Steve Lerner, Gloria Rabinowitz and Rik Kristiansson

Guests: Christine Scalera, Town Board Member; Bridget Fleming, Town Board Member; Tom Neely, Town Transportation & Traffic Safety Director; Christine Fetten, Town Director of Municipal Works; Fred Havemeyer, Town Trustee; Bill Pell, Town Trustee; Jim Walker, Inter Science Research Associates; Art Muller, Jane Nichols, Alan Harper, Catherine Harper, Danielle Bellanger, Anthony Newman, Dick Huebner, Mary Koski, Terry and Blaire Fiore, Blake Wood, Mosey Muller, Michael Wright, Southampton Press.

The minutes of November were approved.

Mill Pond Remediation-Discussion of current status:

Steve Abramson began with a recap of the condition of Mill Pond. For years residents of Mill Pond and the Water Mill community have looked at solutions to remove excess phosphorus from the pond. Two years ago a promising offer came from Australia where a natural product called Phoslock, that absorbs phosphorus from the water column, is manufactured.

After an initial test of a small area of the pond proved successful and showed a clarity in the water, and after many meetings on the subject, the Town is now at the point of completing a contract with the company that will apply Phoslock.

Town Board Member Christine Scalera continued:

The Town has had several meetings on this issue and although we have had good reviews on Phoslock, the Town wants to be sure of its effectiveness and indemnification before it agrees to its application. Town Attorney is finalizing the contract and if the firm approves the changes, Town will move forward from there. There is a window of opportunity to apply the Phoslock in February/March (before the buildup of phosphorus in the spring).

One of the components of the phosphorus problem is storm water runoff so there is also the ongoing storm water abatement program on Deerfield Rd that will occur in conjunction with the pond remediation. The Town is waiting for DEC permits and the first part of the storm water project will soon start.

Steve Abramson: Program will take 2 years. We will address 90% of the load in the first year and the remaining 10% in the 2nd. Obviously, if first year of application proves successful, the second application will follow. Amount of Phoslock needed in the second year will depend on first year.

Fred Havemeyer: It is to be divided into 2 applications so as not to “shock” the lake at one time.

A discussion followed with questions from residents and answers from various Town officials and Jim Walker of Inter Science.

What is the status of the carp?

Answer: They are still in the pond. Their activity stirs up the phosphorus but a major carp capture was done and thousands were removed last year, enough to allow other fish to return to the pond.

How will the Phoslock application be funded?

Answer: The first year application of the Mill Pond remediation project will be funded by \$200,000 recently collected by the Conservation Board from a building project in

Water Mill. An additional \$50,000 will be provided by the Trustees. The funding for the second year application of \$150,000 will need to be discussed and will most likely come from a combination of sources. The funding for the storm water abatement program for Deerfield road is already funded 50/50 by the County and the Town.

What is the latest date Phoslock can be applied?

Answer: It must be applied in late Feb early March in order to starve the algae before it starts growing.

Will storm drains that are clogged on Deerfield be cleaned out now?

Answer: Christine Fetten replied they are in the program but she does not know the exact dates scheduled. She also does not know the exact date for the Deerfield project to begin, but pond application can be done before it starts. CAC will write a letter to Hwy Superintendent, Alex Gregor, requesting Deerfield drains be cleaned.

Has pond been monitored since 2008 fish kill?

Answer: Jim Walker said first year after kill only small fish (yellow perch among them) returned but more recently a large amount of bass has been found. The removal of the carp allowed these other species to recover and the pond should do quite well. However Trustees may want to remove more carp in the future as they vacuum up eggs of largemouth bass and are detrimental.

How often would netting of carp be needed? Jim Walker felt Phoslock and revival of other species of fish will lead to a recovery and suggested we leave pond alone for now re carp.

Suggestion was made to block carp for entering pond when storms arise and salt water flows into pond. Fred agreed that could be done by placing a barrier at such time

Have farmers changed their way of fertilizing?

Answer: Both Jim Walker and Fred Havemeyer said yes, they are doing their best in how they approach fertilizing. Homeowners also have a responsibility re fertilizers and pesticides along with their landscapers who add to the problem by over fertilizing. The Town has done a presentation on this which they are giving to all the CACs. Consensus among those present was that homeowners have to make a choice between green lawns or clear water.

Bridget Fleming mentioned that the Town put out educational information regarding Poxabogue golf course and feeding the grass turf. Town wants signage that says turf is managed to have low impact. Eventually legislation will have to be written to control fertilizers and pesticides going into our ground water.

After discussion, thanks were expressed to Christine Scalera and the Town Board along with Town Trustees and other Town officials that have helped to move this project along. In addition, CAC members and Fred Havemeyer expressed appreciation to Steve Abramson for his dogged work on this issue. Thanks were also given to Steve Lerner and Artie Muller for their persistence and all others who helped. Rachel concluded by saying she hoped this application will occur in the upcoming window of Feb/March as it is in everyone's best interest.

Fred Havemeyer remarked that for Water Mill and the Town, this is an exciting project because it is the first time Phoslock will be applied in NY State and it is sending a message that we are willing to "pony up" regarding our environment.

Other Business:

Tom Neely reported on several letters CAC sent re traffic and road safety issues:

Old Mill Road/Head of Pond intersection - He looked at data. No accidents have occurred but felt striping could be re-aligned to aid in vehicle safety.

Member, Marlene Haresign, expressed concern that this was indeed unsafe and felt Town should do a study on it.

Lower Seven Ponds/Head of Pond Intersection - The CAC has submitted several letters regarding this intersection and Nancy Graboski was attempting to get funding for this project put into the budget before her term ended. This did not happen, but Tom felt there definitely was a safety issue there that needed to be addressed. Councilwoman Fleming also indicated that this was a safety issue. The CAC will re-submit letter on this dangerous intersection and perhaps if approved, the Old Mill intersection could be addressed as part of this project.

David Whites Lane/Head of Pond – speed limit signs. Tom will address this and has several recommendations to improve the signage on that stretch. Everyone agrees that there is far too much no parking signage on that strip while not enough speed limit signs.

Cobb Rd/Wickapogue Rd/Flying Pt. Rd Intersection - Tom has set up a meeting for Wednesday, Jan 16 with a resident. Steve Abramson will attend and Tim Maran will be contacted as well. Tom said he will have a Town engineer look at it again after County Rd 39 widening has been completed in the spring.

The CAC also raised the concern about excessive speed upon entering hamlet from the west as you head into the curve. There have been numerous accidents at that area (at culvert bridge) and also with vehicles merging from little Cobb. A suggestion was made that the 30mph speed limit sign be placed further west to alert drivers of the decrease in speed. After our meeting, one member indicated that the rumble strips as you enter Easthampton work very well and this is something the CAC would support looking into.

Additional topics:

Bridget Fleming informed members that Jan 22 is the date that the final scope will be presented by Kyle Collins regarding the proposed King Kullen shopping center on Cty Rd 39 in Tuckahoe. In addition, the County Rd 39 corridor study will be presented by Kyle Collins at a Town Board work session in February (date to be arranged) and Tom Neely. No determination or SEQRA will be made regarding this supermarket zone change proposal until corridor study has been reviewed.

Regarding Southampton Village proposal for Fresh Market at former Glennon property, the Village has hired a consultant to do a study on its impact on other businesses. Since our meeting, the Village has decided to hold off on any zone change until a decision is made on the Tuckahoe King Kullen change of zone.

Minutes taken by Gloria Rabinowitz