

2009-01-22 Coonamessett River Working Group Minutes

COONAMESSETT RIVER WORKING GROUP

Final MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2009, 7:00 PM, Civil Defense Room

Present: Greg Pinto, George Costello, Courtney Bird, MaryKay Fox

7:20 PM Update on Dike Projects: Ongoing NOI Process.

This is where we are creating a dike and irrigation pond on Flax Bog#1. This was also approved by Selectmen on December 1st. ConCom, i.e. Courtney, will be working with Greg, Jen McKay and George on the NOI process. Progress is going well. In one to two weeks Greg estimates that the process will be finished.

Camille R. asked what was going on with the bogs. Farm Plan? Flooding? Cranberry yields for 2008?

Courtney responded to the questions. He said that Fred Bottomly has sent an email to the Town Manager and ConCom that there was lots of fire worm damage. Fred Bottomly said that he may not farm some of the bogs next year because the vines/crop are too far gone to recover and would require a major overhaul. Next month at a ConCom meeting (Feb 18th @ 7pm in Selectmen's meeting room) Fred Bottomly will address some questions ConCom had on bog operations. Town commitment issue as well such as berming, etc. Don Liptack will be there to discuss the Farm Plan

7:50 PM Update on Year-end Report to Selectmen (Linda).

Greg said that it is coming along. They will email everyone a draft when ready

7:55 PM Report on Meeting with Nutrient Management WG

Meeting with the Falmouth Natural Management committee was on January 15th. Greg met with them to inform them of the Flax Bog 1 NOI, gave them the CRWG background and discussed the added value of incorporating nutrient attenuation into the WG's Restoration plan. Bob Whritenour was a bit defensive and did not want to offer any support from the staff. Greg stated that the WG did not need support but wanted to have an open discussion and exchange ideas on how to incorporate nutrient attenuation into the WG plan. They discussed Selectmen's meeting about lower bog flume removal.

8:05 PM Approve past minutes

These were for final minutes on October 9th, 2008 and December 11, 2008 meeting minutes. Courtney made a motion to approve the final minutes for these dates, George seconded motion. The vote was unanimous. Minutes approved.

8:10 PM New Business:

Courtney wasn't to discuss what the timeline on getting a whole river restoration draft for

ConCom to review? Greg said that Fred Bottomly needs to weigh in on the entire river. He may elect to stop farming some bog areas and expand and improve others. As it was noted, some of the bogs that were targeted for restoration from the WG suggestions, Town meeting vote and Selectmen's approval and vote were included in the Farming RFP. Fred Bottomly has stated that he is willing to negotiate around this problem if he is given options he can work with.

Greg posed the question to the WG asking if the WG needs to meet twice/month. Could we go to once per month given where the WG is currently in their charter and decisions needed to be made? The group discussed and decided that they would go to once per month meetings, keeping the fourth Thursday of each month to meet and reserve the civil defense room for that meeting. Some discussion about if there should be a need to meet 2/month in some months due to current pressing issues and we decided that the small meeting room on second floor would work out fine.

8:30 PM Meeting Adjourned. George motioned to adjourn the meeting, Courtney second the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Tentative schedule

February 12 NO WG meeting

February 16 ConCom Meeting with Fred Bottomly, Don Liptack: Farm Plan and Bog Management Issues.

February 26 Working Group Meeting, Annual Report to the Selectmen, NOI filing done?

February ?? Grant Application notification

March 12 Working Group Meeting