

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

James Lyon, Chair
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The White Pond Advisory Committee (WPAC) was established in 1973 as an advisory and liaison Committee to review and analyze the concerns of the White Pond watershed and play a leadership role in acting as steward for the pond and its environs. White Pond was described by Thoreau as the “Gem of the Woods”; today, it remains a prime Town resource for passive recreation and fishing.

Water Quality

The WPAC has a working relationship with the Friends of White Pond (FOWP) in regards to water testing and helping to obtain funding for increased water-quality monitoring. This includes phosphorous testing, quantification of aquatic vegetation, and a survey of erosion sites on the shoreline. FOWP has been conducting regular water quality tests of clarity and dissolved oxygen for many years.

Erosion Control

The WPAC worked with the Division of Natural Resources in identifying critical erosion areas contributing to the degradation of water quality. Water bars, fencing and signage have been added to key erosion areas to help minimize this problem. The WPAC looks forward to working further with the DNR and continuing this approach to the preservation of White Pond.

White Pond Reservation

Many efforts have evolved over the years from the Committee’s concern about the Town-owned property known as White Pond Reservation. It is located on the southwest shore of the Pond, extending back over forty acres of woods and trails to the Sudbury border. While it has been proposed before, there is currently no management plan in place for this spectacular property since its acquisition by the Town in 1992. The WPAC continues its working relationship with DNR to encourage the proper use of this area, along with Town officials promoting this valuable resource to Town residents.

Comprehensive Pond Management Plan

The WPAC has completed a Community Preserva-

tion Act application for a comprehensive White Pond Watershed management plan with the Town. The application is for a plan that would provide baseline data on the health of the pond, a program for maintaining the ongoing water quality, quantify issues associated with private land ownership within the White Pond watershed, and a position on the recreational uses and limitations of the Pond. The Town has made this application on behalf of the WPAC and is being carried out by the DNR. The WPAC feels this application is of the utmost importance to ensure that White Pond and its watershed will maintain its clear waters for the enjoyment of future generations.

Building and Renovations in the White Pond Area

A continuing responsibility of the WPAC is to work with the Building Commissioner and Town committees to review and advice in regards to new construction (e.g., additions, landscape changes, etc.) in the White Pond Watershed to ensure that the health of the pond and its environs are preserved. A number of these reviews were performed in 2010 and the committee approved each with a quorum. Of particular concern to the WPAC is any activity that would have an adverse affect on the quality of the Pond water and surrounding habitat.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)

The WPAC has been actively involved in the discussions surrounding the BFRT, to ensure that the Pond is properly protected given that the proposed trail passes closely to White Pond. The WPAC is working with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and other groups such as Concord based Friends of Rural Trails and the Friends of the BFRT. The WPAC feels it is important to elevate awareness of the impacts of the trail construction, activities, and increased visitor traffic on the health and aesthetics of the Pond, and on the wildlife corridor, while encouraging Town usage of this great asset.