



Warner's Pond Task Force: Meeting 3

March 21, 2024



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

Agenda



- 5:05 Public Records Law
- 5:10 Approve February 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 5:15 2012 Watershed Management Plan Review and Discussion
 - A. Section 1 (Introduction and Warner's Pond Description and History)
 - B. Section 3 (Results)
- 6:40 Envision Concord Criteria Work Group
- 6:50 Public Comment (limited to 2 mins per person)
- 7:00 End

2012 Watershed Management Plan Review and Discussion

Purpose

- Clarify the group's current thinking and unanswered questions on
 - the history of the pond,
 - the nature and extent of the problem, and
 - management options.
- Purpose is *not* to agree or seek consensus.

Suggestion to get out hard copy or open doc on your computer.

Section 1: Introduction and Warner's Pond Description and History – Highlights

- Pond created in 1800s, reconstructed most recently in 2008
- Significant Town natural resource and popular recreation area since late 1890s
- Large watershed-to-pond ratio, rapid flushing
- Since at least 1980s, ongoing eutrophication and sediment deposition
 - Excessive weed growth, invasives (e.g., variable watermilfoil, fanwort, water chestnut)
 - Decrease in boating, fishing, ecological value (fish & wildlife)
- Prior evaluation and rehabilitation efforts

Section 3: Results – Topics



- 3.1 Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- 3.2 Summary of Previous Studies and Existing Conditions
 - 3.2.1 Biological Resource Assessment
 - 3.2.2. Recreational Resource Assessment
- 3.3 Bathymetry
- 3.4 Isopach Map and Sediment Quality
- 3.5 Sediment Loading and Water Quality Results
- 3.6 Hydrologic Budget and Nutrient Load Modeling

Section 3: Results – Highlights



- Biological Resource Assessment:
 - Fish species: warm-water
 - Aquatic plants: Variable watermilfoil, fanwort, water chestnut, plus purple loosestrife on the margins; rapid spread since 1999
 - Habitat and wildlife
 - 1) Shallow marsh on western side, 2) Scrub-shrub/emergent marsh at the inlet, 3) Open water habitat in eastern and northern sections, 4) Upland habitat on islands
 - Habitat for birds, warm-water fisheries, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and aquatic mammals (especially scrub-shrub/emergent wetland system)
- Recreational Resource Assessment
 - Scouts use (camping, nature study, etc.), swimming, ice skating/hockey, ice cutting
 - Activities threatened by shrinking open water, more limited access

Section 3: Results – Highlights



- Bathymetry
 - Water depth: 4-12 ft
 - Water flow path: inlet -> north of Scout Island -> down to outlet
- Sediment
 - Up to 9 ft deep (pockets in northeast); average 2.8 ft
 - Sediment chemistry suggests dredging is feasible
- Sediment Loading/Water Quality Results
 - Sediment and nutrient hotspots north and west along Nashoba Brook
 - Net in-pond sediment deposition 43-64 cy/year (~5 10-ton dump trucks)
- Nutrient Load Modeling
 - Average phosphorus load = 4,930 kg/yr
 - “Permissible” load = 393 kg/yr; “critical” load = 785 kg/yr; suggests productivity problems “almost certain to persist”

Section 3: Results – Highlights



- Recreational goals
 - Continue to maintain and improve the pond's fishing opportunities.
 - Clear select areas of water lilies and dense exotic aquatic vegetation to provide greater access to Scout Island and other areas of the pond.
 - Address excess sediment and nutrients in the pond.
 - Improve the existing boat launch access off Commonwealth Avenue to better accommodate recreational activities throughout the year.
 - Maintain primitive boatlandings on Scout Island and Pond Street to allow for easier access.

Criteria Work Group



- Question to address: *How should we apply the Envision Concord criteria to our review of alternatives for Warner's Pond?*
- Proposed mandate: *Specify a clear set of proposed criteria to guide the Task Force's review of alternatives by interpreting the Envision Concord criteria as a shorter, more manageable, and more relevant set of questions.*
- Proposed approach
 - Volunteers (balanced group)
 - Guidance document
 - Ok to review other, more recent Town docs
 - Review and discussion of proposed criteria at next meeting

Next Steps



- Next meeting April 11, 5-7pm
- Stay tuned for readings and minutes
- Likely focus on *Envision Concord*
- Criteria work group
- Meeting feedback form

Public Comment



- Be respectful
- Avoid personal attacks
- Max 2 minutes/speaker



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