

Warner's Pond Task Force: Revised Summary of Onboarding Calls

March 13, 2024



Summary of Onboarding Calls: What you value about the Pond

- Strong connection to Pond vs. little or no connection
- Recreational use of WP (present): birdwatching, fishing, sitting, viewing
- Fisheries and wildlife value, natural resource
- Neighborhood/community resource
- Cultural/historical significance
- Scenic beauty
- Soundscape



Summary of Onboarding Calls: Concerns and hopes



- Shared hope/desire for improved natural resource/recreational use at WP and/or elsewhere in West Concord (Gerow Park)
- Some see past uses of pond as limited by its condition & climate change (e.g., swimming, canoeing, sailing, skating)
- Some have hope/desire to improve fisheries (herring) and linkage to Assabet River
- Some have interest in improving pond access, recreational use by community (scenic viewing, fishing)



Summary of Onboarding Calls: Task Force process



- Confidence that TF members have the expertise and knowledge to carry out the charge.
- Confidence that TF has the right mix of members/representation.
- Confidence that members will be able to keep an open mind.
- Hopeful that TF can work transparently and with open-mindedness to foster confidence in the community that this is a fair process.
- Concern that there will be division/conflict among TF members.
- Mild concern that many Town residents don't know/care about WP.
- Mild concern that there won't be adequate support at Town Meeting for whatever recommendation the TF makes.
- Mild concern that the Dec. 2 deadline may not be achievable.



Summary of Onboarding Calls: What you want to find out for each alternative

- Financial/cost information for all options, including long term maintenance/other implications, how to pay for maintenance
- Understand the methods for different alternatives, incl. disposal
- History and cultural significance of the pond
- Effects on recreational uses of all alternatives
- Effects on fisheries, wildlife, and overall natural resource values
- Effects on flooding risks, climate change resilience
- Accessibility of pond open space/recreation to the community
- Liability and legal issues
- Possibilities/connections to broader landscape and future of West Concord (increasing density, suite of recreational opportunities)

Summary of Onboarding Calls:

Other considerations



- Environmental impacts of selected alternative should be linked with improvements to natural resources or recreational uses at WP, or in vicinity of WP (depends on alternative)
- Future long-term implications of any decision (financial, natural resource, climate resilience, use by community) needs to be part of review
- What is the best solution for the town? Fairness, transparency and open-mindedness of TF is crucial



Summary of Onboarding Calls: Some questions/concerns



- The town's pivot from dredging to dam removal
- Whether we know enough/can trust the outcomes of different alternatives
- Whether members and NRC can be neutral in our communications/messaging, separate individual preferences from broader town interests, and follow the data





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