



Warner's Pond Task Force: Meeting 5

May 9, 2024



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

Agenda



- 5:00 Welcome
- 5:10 Approve April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 5:15 Discussion on 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study
- 6:00 Presentation on Dredging Bid — Keith Hannon
- 6:30 Update on Issue Identification & *Envision Concord* Criteria
- 6:50 Next Steps
- 7:00 Public Comment (limited to 2 mins per person)
- 7:10 End

Goals for Today

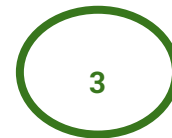
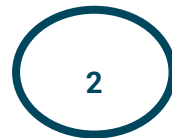


- Make sure everyone understands the basic elements of dredging as an alternative.
 - *What it might look like, what we know about potential impacts, what are the options/moving pieces.*
- Clarify key questions we need to answer to evaluate dredging as an option for Warner's Pond, for future research.

Group Process Arc



We are here!



- Clarify mandate, norms & roles
- Share different goals/interests
- Begin to identify shared decision-making criteria

- Develop shared understanding of the facts/issues
- Clarify options
- Identify unanswered questions

- Research unanswered questions
- Bring in experts as needed

- Evaluate options against criteria
- Build consensus
- Decide

Survey Responses on 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study

What (if any) conclusions does this report make that you think are especially relevant to the Task Force's analysis?

- Overall
 - Positive conclusions about dredging and its benefits (for some)
 - Other options (e.g., from 2012 report) = short term fixes
 - Opportunity to retain historical character of the pond
 - Conclusion that dredging \neq final solution, need to address nutrients
 - Opportunity to weigh multiple possible dredge options
- Impacts and approach
 - 100 year timeline
 - Impact of increased pond depth on recreation, habitat
 - Use of sediment for shallow wetland benches, biodiversity; potential for habitat diversity/complexity
 - Hydraulic dredging = only practical approach
 - Sediment = fairly clean
 - Large storm/high-water sediment inflows, impact of inflows on areas beyond dredge areas
- Funding
 - Limitations/difficulties in securing grant funding
 - Upfront vs. annualized \$\$

Survey Responses on 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study

Are there questions raised by the report that the Task Force should address in order to fill in knowledge or data gaps?

- Timeline
 - How do we reconcile difference in infill time estimates compared to 2023 report?
 - What is the reliability of the 100 year time re-fill estimate, especially give rising temperatures and increased precipitation?
- Impacts
 - What is the impact of dredging relatively small, areas-specific amount of sediment on overall nutrients, ecology, aesthetics? What do we know about Pond-wide ecological impacts and their sustainability?
 - How do we weight the historical value as open water amenity vs. ecological and recreational improvements of other options?
 - Would sediments continue to be deposited where Nashoba Brook enter the pond and what would the impact of that be?
 - What is a realistic depiction of overall recreational gains, given Gerow beach improvements will not proceed?

Survey Responses on 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study

Are there questions raised by the report that the Task Force should address in order to fill in knowledge or data gaps?

- **Reliability/complications**
 - What is the reliability of the conclusion that dredge areas won't refill, given existing sediments in these areas?
 - Are there potential complications of removing material below accumulated sediments (e.g. bedrock)?
 - Has there been water quality (phosphorous) testing to help inform the modeling work?
- **Funding/costs**
 - What is a realistic cost estimate?
 - Could we use other sites to place dredged material to save costs?
 - How much work was done looking into funding options?
- **Approach**
 - Could leaving more dredged material in the pond improve ecological outcome and/or reduce costs?
 - Does MCI still not wish to have the sediment on their land? How does the possibility of controlling MAC parcel impact options?
 - Have there been any major stormwater management changes since 2018?

Survey Responses on 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study

What other information about dredging does the Task Force need to have in order to evaluate dredging as an option?

- **Costs/funding**
 - Updated cost estimates based on consideration of additional options (placement locations, type of dredging, etc.)
 - Potential availability of new financial resources, state funding
- **Impacts**
 - Whether the water surface area of the pond has shrunk and will continue to shrink, and how this impacts the desirability of dredging.
 - PFAS concentrations and implications lower standard on potential for swimming
 - Rate of infill in the non-dredged portions and implications for future conditions and aesthetics of the pond
 - Extent of benefits of limited dredging beyond dredged areas
 - How to consider Gerow Park and Commonwealth Ave access points moving forward
- **Process issues**
 - Whether permitting is still up to date
 - Whether pursuing dredging would require going back to Town Meeting

Next Steps



- Next meeting May 21, 5-7pm, Harvey Wheeler
 - Review and discuss 2023 Alternatives Analysis
 - Plan for public meeting
 - Presentation from Criteria “Test Drive” work group
- Spring site visit?
- Meeting feedback form

Public Comment



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



About CBI

CBI is a nonprofit organization with decades of experience helping leaders collaborate to solve complex problems.

Our staff are experts in facilitation, mediation, capacity building, citizen engagement, and organizational strategy and development. We are committed to using our skills to build collaboration on today's most significant social, environmental, and economic challenges. We work within and across organizations, sectors, and stakeholder groups.

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