

April 21, 2021 Stormwater Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Dena Hoffman, Chair.

Chairwoman Hoffman read aloud the COVID checklist to ensure compliance with the Governor's Order allowing remote participation by multiple members of the Stakeholder Group.

Planning Director Gowan called the roll: Present were the following members of the Stakeholder Group:

Dena Hoffman, Chair
Jeff Gowan, Planning Director
Deb Waters, Member at large
Leanne Withrow, Little Island Pond Watershed Association
Paul Dadak, Planning Board
Richard Lannan, Long Pond Association
Rhonda Martin, Administrative Assistant
Craig Hoffman, Interim Road Agent
John Walter, Gumpas Pond Association

Also present was Lorilee Mather of GeoInsight, the Town's Environmental Consultant for MS4.

Chairwoman Hoffman addressed the draft minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting. No changes were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Gowan and a second was made by Rhonda Martin. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved by the members in attendance, 8-0-0.

The Chair then described the Town's efforts to seek public comments on the SWMP, including advertising the public comment period of March 8th, 2021 to April 16th, 2021 in the Lowell Sun and physical, social media and online website postings inviting public comment. No public comments had been received. The Chair then opened the floor for any comments or questions from any members of the public attending the meeting in-person or remotely. Nobody came forward or indicated a desire to comment remotely.

The Chair described upcoming educational programs, and she asked for the Stakeholder's preference between two "next messages", either educational on Algae Blooms or on the importance of very young swimmers wearing "swimming diapers" at the Town Beach. The consensus from the members was to focus on the Algae Blooms outreach. The Chair also described other outreach materials she had developed and distributed on other MCM messaging.

The Chair then announced the Hazardous Materials collection day in Pelham arranged in cooperation with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission and scheduled for August 28th,

2021. The idea of using that event as an opportunity to provide stormwater education was described and the Group was enthusiastic about seizing that opportunity. The Chair indicated she would investigate “panels” that would contain selected messages that residents could read while waiting in line.

The Chair then turned to the topic of Pelham Cleanup date at Veteran’s Memorial Park to be held on June 5th, 2021 from 10am to 2pm.

The Chair asked the members present at the meeting or participating remotely about their preference for frequency of meetings in follow-up to a survey on that topic she had e-mailed to the members that yielded split results favoring both quarterly and 3 times per year. The consensus was to hold meetings three times per year and to adjust that schedule as needed.

The Chair then sought any additional general comments or questions from members of the Stakeholder Group. Leanne Withrow shared her idea to create a “welcome packet” for new residents of pond neighborhoods. The suggestion was well-received by the members and the discussion included the Town potentially collaborating with the various pond associations for a customized welcome packet that might include novelty item(s) with the Pelham Clean Water Initiative logo. Some possible items were drink cozies, Frisbees, mugs, or other items that would help round-out a package of educational materials. Dena will explore those options.

Another idea suggested by Paul Dadak was to find ways to message the public about better understanding impacts of household chemicals and fertilizers and how that messaging might work.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. That motion was made by Paul Dadak and seconded by John Walter. Planning Director Gowan read the roll and the meeting was adjourned 8-0-0 at 7:56 PM.