

Town of Canton, CT
Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Steering Committee
Special Meeting
October 4, 2011

Draft Meeting Minutes

The Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Steering Committee held a Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Canton Library/Community Center in Room F located at 40 Dyer Avenue in Canton, Connecticut.

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at approximately 6:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Attendance:

- Jeff Shea, Town of Canton
- David Sinish, Inland Wetlands Commission
- Jim Davis, Conservation Commission
- Todd Jacobs, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Anne Raftery
- David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
- Jason Williams, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

Bill Spatcher was not present. Several guests were in attendance including the First Selectman and a reporter from the Canton Patch.

3. Public Comments

Public comments were not received at this time during the meeting.

4. Review and Approve of Minutes

The meeting minutes from August 30, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 30 minutes and seconded. The motion was approved 4-0.

5. Sediment Sampling

David Murphy described the sediment sampling program utilizing a power point presentation. Locations, depths, and findings were described. Despite some detections of metals and PAHs, the sediment would likely be considered clean. It was not characteristic of

a hazardous waste. The potential for DEEP authorization for “beneficial reuse” of the sediment appeared to be favorable.

The First Selectman inquired if there would be some value of the sediment that could offset the cost of removing it. While this did not seem likely, David Murphy would look into the question.

6. Sediment Removal Alternatives

David Murphy described potential sediment removal schemes utilizing a power point presentation. Alternatives include the null alternative (no removal), a “maximum dredge” alternative where all areas that are less than five feet deep would be excavated to five feet depth, an alternative where the middle portion of the impoundment near the sandbars would be deepened, and an alternative where an upstream area near the Town Garage would be deepened to create deeper passage to the more distant upstream areas. Questions from the committee included clarifications about potential depths, widths, and final channel bathymetry. There was some concern that a new bathymetry that was too uniform would be detrimental to fish and wildlife.

Jeff Shea inquired why dredging would not be proposed downstream of the old abutments. David Murphy explained dredging there was not warranted due to the lack of swimming, kayaking, and canoeing in this area.

7. Draft Master Plan

Jason Williams presented the draft master plan graphic. Potential recommendations were discussed.

8. Review and Discuss Other Such Matters that May Pertain to the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Project

Jeff Shea asked for clarification about which items from the public survey were not on the master plan. A good example is the restroom issue. Several members of the public described a need for restrooms. The committee generally agreed that this issue needed some further consideration. The First Selectman indicated that the old railroad station building at Dyer Avenue could be moved and retrofitted to become a restroom facility. Water-less port-o-lets are another option.

The First Selectman raised the issue of the upcoming phosphorus requirements that are expected to cause upgrades to water pollution control facilities across the state. He posed the question that it may be less expensive to rebuild the plant elsewhere rather than retrofit the existing plant. That would lead to an opportunity to re-use the site.

A question was asked regarding who owns the small piece of land east of the existing board ramp. David Murphy said this land was owned by the same entity that owns the canoe store land. However, much of the small piece of land is taken up by the trail easement.

One member of the public raised an issue regarding the sandbars surrounding the islands near the River Road/Bridge Street intersection. People in Canton perceive that this is one of the most changed areas of the impoundment, with excessive sediment and poor depths, despite the fact that islands have always been present in the bend. David Murphy stated that another dredging alternative would be added that includes additional sediment removal in this area.

David Sinish inquired whether parking spaces would be depicted in the Town Garage area on the next iteration of the master plan. If so, the spaces must be sufficiently small such that trailers could not be accommodated. The impoundment must continue to host car-top boats such as canoes and kayaks, rather than trailer-mounted watercraft. The committee generally concurred. David Sinish also commented that “headway speed” should be checked in the State’s regulations and statutes because wakes are controlled via the regulation of headway speed. David Murphy explained that all of the related statutes and regulations were checked, but would be reviewed again.

The committee had a discussion about the recommendations involving the old bridge abutments. Initial opinion was that a walkway could lead to more diving and swimming, but an alternate outcome could be a reduction in swimming/diving activity due to the increased visibility and presence of pedestrians in close proximity to those would be swimming and diving without authorization.

9. Discuss Date and Presentation Requirements for Public Meeting

Choices for the public meeting are October 20 and October 27, 2011. The master plan maps and report will need to be posted to the project web site a week before the public meeting. Ultimately, October 27, 2011 was selected for the public meeting. A press release will need to be prepared ahead of time.

A few outstanding items to work out include additional graphics for the master plan, and planning-level cost estimates that are needed in the master plan. The cost estimates will be in the report. In addition to a map of the water surface raised three feet, it might be helpful to have a cross section of the impoundment with the water surface raised three feet.

10. Review Project Schedule

The public meeting will be on October 27, 2011.

11. Staff report

Not applicable.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM.