



ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING O'NEILL ROOM
2/19/20 7:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Gibian*	Padaria	Pokress	Kellar*	McKenna*
Blundell*	Wallach*	Harmer*	Tosti*	
Ellis	Foskett*	Deyst*	Kocur*	
White	Beck	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	LaCourt*	Carman*	Diggins*

*Indicates present

VISITORS: ComCom members Chuck Tirone, David White, Susan Chapnick; Environmental Planner Emily Sullivan, Spy Pond Committee Co-Chair Brad Barber, Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine

1. MINUTES: Voted to approve the minutes of 2/12/20 as corrected. Unanimous

2. ART 65* WATER BODIES FUND Led by White, Members of the Water Bodies Working Group of the ConCom presented their assessments and recommendations for 7 water bodies. (Ref 1). They took turns describing the condition of each water body, recent work done, and recommendation/plans for 2020. They continue to look for ways to reduce the use of chemicals to control invasive species. Nutrient runoff from resident lawns is a major cause of invasive growth. In some places, storm drains bring pollutants. Sullivan presented a spread sheet showing how the funds appropriated have been used over the past 5 years, the current fiscal year, and plans for the next 3 years for 4 water bodies. (Ref 2). Also included is a spread sheet showing a detailed breakout for each of the 5 fiscal years from FY19 through FY23.

VOTED \$55,000 Unanimous

3. ART 8 BIKEWAY HOURS: Chapdelaine summarized the police patrol plans for extended hours. He does not think there will be any cost impact. There would be a cost were the path to be lighted. He is aware that this was not part of the original bikeway plan adopted by the Town and thus the fine for use after 9PM (Art 2 Sect10). FinCom will not report.

4. ART 12 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT: Chapdelaine said the objective was to make the fee for review by DPW storm water management plans in new construction to be related to the extent of the review at DPW.

FinCom will not report.

5. ART 13 FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE: Chapdelaine said that prohibiting fossil fuel in new construction is necessary to meet global warming reduction goals.

Furthermore he thinks green alternatives will be cost neutral. He noted that this restriction not affect AHS by design.
FinCom will not report.

6. ART 27 RETIRED POLICE OFFICE DETAILS: Chapdelain does not think this will have additional cost. The Town is sometimes unable provide an officer for every detail which may cause delays and increase expenses. When officers from other towns are used, there are agreements between towns that limit costs. Relatively few retired officers will qualify.
FinCom will not report.

7. ART 49 COLLECTED BARGAINING: Chapdelaine said there is only 1 union that is not already under contract for FY21. The Patrolmen's Union is in mediation now and will probably go into binding arbitration next. No conclusion in the near future.
VOTED \$251,000 eventual back payments for FY21. Unanimous.

8. ART 52 PARKING DISTRICT: Chapdelaine said that the committee wants to spend available funds on sidewalk improvements.

9. ART 58 PEG ACCESS BUDGET: Chapdelaine reviewed the process that requires Town Meeting to approve pass through of the funds to ACMI.

10. ART 69 BIKESHARE INFRASTRUCTURE: Chapdelaine said that Blue Bikes asks the community to buy the bikes and the bike stands. The company will operate the business. This will cost \$100k for 5 stations. Some state money is involved. He does not know about liability and maintenance. Members expressed doubt that this is a good used of public money. Chapdelaine will get back to the FinCom with the plan details.

11. ART 59 SEWERS: W&S Enterprise SubCom Gibian recommended supporting the FY21 sewer renovation program w/ a no interest loan from the MWRA.
VOTED \$800,000 Unanimous.

12. ART 60 WATER: W&S Enterprise SubCom Gibian recommended supporting the FY21 water supply renovation program w/ a no interest loan from the MWRA.
VOTED \$1,300,000 Unanimous.

13. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Gov SubCom Howard recommended the budget as printed. He reported that this department seems to have stabilized after several years of turnover. He pointed out some minor flaws in the expense budget and suggested that the conservation offset might be increased. He will follow up on these matters.
VOTED: \$598,500 Unanimous.

14. ARB: Gov SubCom Howard recommended the budget as printed which is the same as last year.
VOTED: \$10,800 Unanimous

5. RESERVE FUND Balance: \$1,547,451.59

6. COMMITTEE: Next meeting Wed 2/26/20.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Ref 1 2019 Water Bodies Assessment and Recommendations Report

Ref 2 Water Bodies Program Analysis

*Article numbering in accordance with Warrant draft of 2/18/20. Numbers are 1 larger than previous draft of 2/12/20

Peter Howard 2/20/20
Revised 2/26/20

2019 Water Bodies Assessment and Recommendation Report

Arlington Conservation Commission February 2020

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC), through its Water Bodies Working Group (WBWG), continued the assessment of fourteen water bodies in the Town of Arlington, including five lakes and ponds and nine streams. A majority of these are negatively impacted by polluted runoff and stormwater discharges due to the highly urban nature of Arlington and surrounding towns. Most of these water bodies also have excessive aquatic invasive plants that degrade water quality, impede recreational use, and degrade aesthetics. In determining which water bodies could benefit from management measures using Town funding, the WBWG took a triage-based approach:

1. Water bodies that are in generally good shape, do not need much help, or whose issues are being addressed by other agencies or funding sources, e.g., Upper & Lower Mystic Lakes and Mystic River
2. Water bodies with some issues that could benefit from directed intervention, e.g. Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, McClennen Park Detention Ponds (Reeds Brook)
3. Water bodies that are in poor shape with many issues that would need major efforts and additional funding to improve, e.g. Mill Brook and Alewife Brook.

Though the chemical treatments of several main water bodies must continue for the coming year to control aquatic invasives and harmful algal blooms, the WBWG is focused on obtaining the appropriate data to develop comprehensive management plans for Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, and the Upper Mystic Lakes. The WBWG's goal is to develop management plans where chemical use is only one step along with strategies to reduce inputs of nutrients to the water bodies, methods to manually remove aquatic plants, and techniques to prevent further spread and development of aquatic invasives.

The WBWG has summarized the 2019 assessment of several key water bodies and identified specific actions towards development of aquatic management plans for 2020.

Arlington Reservoir – A Town-owned water body in Arlington and Lexington with aquatic invasive water chestnuts that form dense, impenetrable mats at the water's surface, which impair public use and water quality. These plants have been harvested mechanically every summer for many years. For several years, the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) has been organizing hand harvesting events in the shallower areas. There was also a harmful algal bloom (HAB) in the late summer that resulted in the posting of warning notices. This water body was assessed as part of the Reservoir Master Plan project supported with CPA funding. One recommendation of that report was that the water chestnuts be harvested earlier than they have been in recent years, in early July, in order to reduce seed production. In 2019 the harvesting did not occur until August 15 and controlled only about 3.4 acres as there was insufficient time and funds to complete the work. DPW estimates that 39,000 pounds of material were removed. In 2020 the WBWG plans to issue a request for quotation (RFQ) for a study to evaluate the reservoir and its management practices.



Water Chestnut Hand-Harvesting Event at Reservoir , 2017

Hill's Pond – A small pond in the heavily used Menotomy Rocks Park with water quality and invasive plant problems. Monthly site visits with proactive treatments in 2019 proved successful in reducing invasives, based on the annual report by the vendor, SOLitude. There was also a harmful algal bloom (HAB) in later summer that required additional treatment. For 2020, the WBWG recommends continuing aeration, strictly limiting polluting activities near the pond or in areas that drain into the pond, maintaining a vegetated buffer strip around the pond four to ten feet wide of unmowed grass or natural vegetation, and chemical treatments of no more than half of the pond at a time with aquatic herbicides to control algae and other detrimental water plants.

Mill Brook – The poor water quality of Mill Brook decreased marginally in 2018 from C- down to D (EPA/MyRWA 2018 Water Quality Report: <https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/>). Mill Brook's poor water quality is primarily due to stormwater runoff; however, there may be illicit discharges to the brook from surrounding properties. The brook and its adjacent shore provide valuable wildlife habitat and opportunities for nature views.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) received CPA funds to improve public access, improve water quality, and reduce floodwaters along Mill Brook near Wellington Park.



The new flood storage, constructed wetland channel in Wellington Park, 2019

In 2019, park construction included building more flood storage capacity and removing invasive terrestrial plants. CPA funds from Phase I were leveraged to get

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) implementation funding from the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to fund the design and construction of this work in Phase II. In the next

phase of work, Phase III, this project will improve park amenities, remove more invasive terrestrial plants, and create more robust native vegetated buffers along the brook's bank.

The WBWG also has concerns about the section of Mill Brook next to the Reservoir, which suffers from bank erosion and invasive plant issues. For 2020, the WBWG recommends supporting and building on the MVP grant work and Reservoir Master Plan to enhance public access and investigate/mitigate illicit discharges into Mill Brook along with improved flood storage and stormwater management.

McClennen Park Detention Ponds on Reeds Brook – These stormwater detention ponds were created during the capping/closure of the landfill in this area, formerly called “Arlington Summer Street Landfill,” which was officially closed in 2006 with no further monitoring required. The WBWG received a technical report from contractor Brown & Caldwell summarizing sampling and analysis performed 2016-2017, which recommended further ecological investigations. Technical contractor Woods Hole Group (WHG) submitted a memorandum report in 2019 summarizing their evaluation, based on site visits and sampling and analysis of surface water and sediment performed in 2018. WHG concluded that the observed iron flocculation at Reeds Brook does not constitute a condition of “readily apparent harm” (MassDEP terminology) to the environment of the wetland resource area. However, some sediment data exceeded MassDEP sediment screening level benchmarks for arsenic, lead, and zinc and several surface water samples exceeded the National Recommended Water Quality Criteria (NRWQC) for iron. WHG does not know the sources of the contamination, which could be due to stormwater (drainage systems/outfalls feed into the detention ponds), the upstream wetland area and/or the former capped landfill (which was unlined). The WBWG does not have groundwater data for this site. The WHG report will be made public on the ACC website.

In conclusion, the WBWG completed its goal in 2019 to investigate potential harm to the resource area of the iron flocculation at these detention ponds. Based on the findings, the WBWG concludes that there is no readily apparent harm to the resource area. However, given the findings of several metal concentrations that exceed screening levels, the WBWG has been transparent and reported these findings to the MassDEP Office of Solid Waste (OSW). The WBWG has requested guidance or recommendations on further actions the Town might take, if any, given these findings.



Reeds Brook culvert to detention pond showing iron flocculation, Spring 2018

The WBWG expects guidance from OSW in early 2020.

Spy Pond – One of Arlington's most heavily used open spaces for recreation. Spy Pond has an invasive plant problem within and around the pond. The surrounding managed landscape contributes to nutrient loading and low oxygen levels. Left untreated, invasive plants impair recreational use. Furthermore, there is erosion along portions of the shoreline from wind, wave, and recreational activity. In 2016, the Conservation Commission recommended assessing, designing, and implementing strategies for shoreline erosion control. These efforts received CPA funding for the shoreline erosion assessment and evaluation of design options. These designs were implemented in a project sponsored by the Conservation Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission, funded by CPA, CDBG, state grants, and private donations. Construction for erosion control, slope stabilization, pathway resurfacing, and invasive species removal was completed in 2019.

Treatments that were applied to Spy Pond in 2019 include an herbicide treatment for leafy vegetation and two algaecide treatments that were necessary due to an atypical algal bloom (HAB) in later summer.

The WBWG and the Spy Pond Committee met in December 2019 to discuss future management of Spy Pond. The WBWG recommends proactive pond management in 2020, similar to the strategy used for Hill's Pond to reduce invasives. This will hopefully reduce the reliance on chemical controls for invasive species in the pond, taking into account the recreational uses of the pond.

Mystic River – Though this water body has a good EPA/MyRWA water quality rating of A- as of 2018, it was directly impacted by an oil spill in 2013, making it eligible for grant funding for restoration. The ACC and the Town of Arlington was awarded a MassDEP Natural Resource Damages Assessment (NRDA) grant of \$47,325 for the restoration of an outfall area impacted during the 2013 Mystic River oil spill. The Restoration project created a native riverbank (riparian) habitat and improved stormwater quality. It is located along the Mystic River at the end of Park Street.

Work began in October of 2017 and continued through 2018 to stabilize the slope along the riverbank, remove a broken concrete headwall at the stormwater outfall, repair the drainage pipe, create a swale for flood storage to percolate stormwater runoff, and move the dirt footpath around this newly created riparian habitat. In 2018 and 2019, native plantings were installed to create a riparian habitat. The final phase of the restoration was completed in 2019 with a successful community planting event (with Thompson Elementary School students) to supplement the habitat with additional native vegetation, installation of educational signage, and a celebration event with representatives from MassDEP, DCR, Arlington DPW, and the Arlington Conservation Commission.



Deb Berger, DCR; Susan Chapnick, ACC; Cathy Kiley, MassDEP; Emily Sullivan, ACC; Bill Copithorne, Arlington DPW with installed signage at the Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project, November 2019

In conjunction with this project, the Town has installed a new pretreatment system on Park Street for the storm drain pipe that leads to the outfall at this location. This separate but linked project managed by DPW will reduce contamination and sedimentation from reaching the Mystic River. Visual observance of improved clarity of the water at the outfall location is evident in the Fall of 2019, as seen in the photo to the right. No additional work is anticipated in 2020, other than to monitor for the health of the riparian habitat planted last year.



Improved water quality near the restored outfall along the Mystic River, October 2019

Alewife Brook – The brook's poor water quality decreased marginally in 2018 from D+ down to D (EPA/MyRWA 2018 Water Quality Report: <https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/>). The poor water quality of this brook is caused by polluted stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in neighboring communities. In 2020, the Town of Arlington and MyRWA, with funding from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, will construct two rain gardens and 20 infiltration trenches in east Arlington to filter stormwater and reduce the amount of pollution entering Alewife Brook to improve water quality.



Green Infrastructure: Bioretention Basin construction at Egerton Rd/Herbert Rd, Arlington, September 2018. Two similar rain gardens will be constructed in East Arlington in 2020.

The WBWG has compiled the information presented in this report. The Conservation Commission recommends that other locations that have not been identified above as a priority for current Town Water Bodies funding should continue to be monitored, and recommendations for actions and funding should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Respectfully Submitted by the Water Bodies Working Group of the Arlington Conservation Commission:
Susan Chapnick
Chuck Tirone
David White

Approved by the Conservation Commission February 6, 2020

Water Bodies Program Analysis										
Version Date: 2/13/2020 - EAS										
The purpose of this schedule is to show activity of the Water Bodies Account over several years, specifically with a 5 year review of revenue and expenditures, current year projection, and the three years of budget based on current information available.										
Please note that the difference between fiscal years is one day. The ending balance as of 6/30 each year is carried forwarded to the top of the subsequent column as the opening, 7/1 balance.										
Water Bodies Account History: 5 Years of Actual, Current Year Expected, 3 Years of Projected										
MUNIS #		FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Current	FY21 Budget	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget
	Beginning Balance - 7/1	\$ 27,865	\$ 58,915	\$ 38,436	\$ 50,110	\$ 84,118	\$ 109,370	\$ 107,600	\$ 93,900	\$ 44,000
230 4972	Revenue/Appropriation	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
230 4831	Revenue/Donations	\$ 1,800	\$ 800	\$ 1,950	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800			
230 5299	Expenses - Spy Pond	\$ -	\$ (41,279)	\$ (15,280)	\$ (10,155)	\$ (25,450)	\$ (25,070)	\$ (17,000)	\$ (17,000)	\$ (20,000)
	Spy Pond Sonar								\$ (56,000)	
230 5299	Expenses - Reservoir	\$ (10,750)	\$ (20,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (16,500)	\$ (16,500)	\$ (31,500)	\$ (21,500)	\$ (21,500)
230 5299	Expenses - Hills	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,287)	\$ (4,000)	\$ (4,000)	\$ (4,200)	\$ (4,400)	\$ (4,600)
230 5299	Expenses - McClennen			\$ -	\$ (10,000)	\$ (10,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (5,000)	\$ (5,000)	
230 5299	Expenses - CC Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,996)	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ (6,000)	\$ (11,000)	\$ (6,000)	\$ (11,000)
	Ending Balance - 6/30	<u>\$ 58,915</u>	<u>\$ 38,436</u>	<u>\$ 50,110</u>	<u>\$ 84,118</u>	<u>\$ 112,968</u>	<u>\$ 107,600</u>	<u>\$ 93,900</u>	<u>\$ 44,000</u>	<u>\$ 46,900</u>
	Reserve for Spy Pond Sonar Treatment			\$ 14,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 56,000		
	Net Available Fund Balance			\$ 36,110	\$ 56,118	\$ 70,968	\$ 51,600	\$ 37,900	\$ 44,000	\$ 46,900
	Total Expenses						\$ (53,570)	\$ (68,700)	\$ (109,900)	\$ (57,100)

Water Bodies Program Analysis									
Expense Detail - Actual and Projected									
The purpose of this schedule is to provide a beakout of the expenditure detail that is summarized on the preceding tab.									
Detail - FY2019 - Budget		Spy Pond	Reservoir	Hills	McClennen	Other	FY Total	Spent to date	\$\$ available
treatment/sonar - spend in FY22		14000					14,000		
treatment/reward		10450					10,450	12600	
water chestnuts/hand pull			15000				15,000	15000	
algae treatment		5000					5,000		
water quality testing/plant id/Hills Pond		10000	1500	4000			15,500	1730	
spy permitting							-		
McClennen detention basin					10,000		10,000	10,000	
ConsCom - other water bodies		-	-	-		5000	5,000	3,495	-
Total		\$ 39,450	\$ 16,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 74,950	\$ 42,825	\$ -
Detail - FY2020 - Budget	Treatment	Monitoring/Analysis	Management Plan	Report	Other	Comments	FY Total	Spent to date	Available
Spy Pond	12,000		3,500	1,500		herbicide treatments, surveys, management plan, report	17,000	19,070	(2,070)
Reservoir	15,000			1,500		mechanical treatments (half pond), survey, report	16,500	16,000	500
Hill's	2,500			1,500		herbicide treatments, algae treatments, report	4,000	1,782	2,218
McClennen		2,000				flocculation monitoring and analysis	2,000	895	1,105
Sonar (spend in FY22)	14,000					hold for Spy Pond FY22	14,000		14,000
Other	5,000				10,000	Spy Pond algae treatments	15,000	6,000	9,000
TOTALS	\$ 48,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 68,500.00	\$ 43,746.90	\$ 24,753.10
Detail - FY2021 - Budget	Treatment	Monitoring/Analysis	Management Plan	Report	Other	Comments	FY Total	Spent to date	Available
Spy Pond	12,000	3,500		1,500		treatments, report	17,000		17,000
Reservoir	20,000		10,000	1,500		mechanical treatments (full pond), survey, management plan, report	31,500		31,500
Hill's	2,700			1,500		herbicide treatments, algae treatments, report	4,200		4,200
McClennen		5,000				potential follow-up	5,000		5,000
Sonar (spend in FY22)						hold for Spy Pond FY22, final request for FY2022 Sonar treatment	-		-
Other	6,000				5,000	misc algae treatments, etc	11,000		11,000
TOTALS	\$ 40,700.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 68,700.00	\$ -	\$ 68,700.00
Detail - FY2022 - Budget	Treatment	Monitoring/Analysis	Management Plan	Report	Other	Comments	FY Total	Spent to date	Available
Spy Pond	12,000	3,500		1,500		treatments, report, hand pulling	17,000		17,000
Reservoir	20,000			1,500		mechanical treatments (full pond), report	21,500		21,500
Hill's	2,900			1,500		herbicide treatments, algae treatments, report	4,400		4,400
McClennen		5,000				potential follow-up	5,000		5,000
Other	6,000					misc algae treatments, etc	6,000		6,000
TOTALS	\$ 40,900.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -		\$ 53,900.00	\$ -	\$ 53,900.00
Detail - FY2023 - Budget	Treatment	Monitoring/Analysis	Management Plan	Report	Other	Comments	FY Total	Spent to date	Available
Spy Pond	12,000	3,500		1,500	15,000	treatments, report, hand pulling	20,000		20,000
Reservoir	20,000			1,500		mechanical treatments (full pond), report	21,500		21,500
Hill's	3,100			1,500		herbicide treatments, algae treatments, report	4,600		4,600
Other	6,000				5,000	misc algae treatments, etc	11,000		11,000
TOTALS	\$ 41,100.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 57,100.00	\$ -	\$ 57,100.00