

Citizens Input Group Meeting  
October 27, 2022

In attendance

Joe Baldiga, Chair  
John Westerling, DPW Director  
Jeff Barnes, Conservation Commission Chair  
Eric Sonnett  
Drew Logan  
Paula Garland  
David Mitchell, Consultant

Guests

Steve Uliss  
Malcolm Page  
Sabine St Pierre  
Sarah Baldiga  
Carol Esler  
Donald Kaiser  
Jaime Goncalves

- The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:02 pm
- Minutes from October 11 were approved without revisions
- John Westerling reported that the Conservation Commission approved the 8' drawdown at their latest meeting. He has spoken with the abutters that have previously expressed concerns with their shallow wells and they did not express concerns with the extended drawdown this year.
- David Mitchell provided rough estimates of cost of herbicides and mechanical harvesting for 50 acres.
  - Harvesting - \$72k
  - Diquat/indicott- \$26k
  - Endothall - \$56
- A discussion ensued regarding the approach for next year in case the drawdown is not effective. Mechanical harvesting and herbicides were discussed as options. The group agrees that herbicide treatment is the desired option given superior effectiveness, cost and ease of program implementation.
- Selective guests comments were as follows:
  - Public needs to weigh in on any herbicide use
  - Do the herbicides that are being considered for use contain PFA?
  - Discussion of potential fragmentation during mechanical harvesting causing spreading of weeds
- Vote was unanimous to have DPW begin bid process for herbicides and arrange with the awardee for a placeholder date for application of herbicides if needed. Evaluate need of herbicide treatment in the spring based on effectiveness of drawdown. If so determined then pursue town approvals
- Mr Westerling suggested we go before the Hopkinton Selectboard for an update and recommendation to gain support before executing the above plan.
- Next meeting will be scheduled after Mr Westerling consults with the SelectBoard.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm