



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

MEETING MINUTES  
SASSAQUIN POND WATERSHED PROTECTION GROUP  
August 11, 2015 6:30 PM Brooklawn Senior Center

IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Dixon – Conservation Commission Vice Chairman, Scott Turner – Nitsch Engineering, Mike Frey – Sassaquin Pond Betterment Alliance, Sarah Porter – Conservation Agent

General discussion:

1. Craig felt the draft Sassaquin Pond Stormwater Ordinance done by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) was problematic and one problem was the exemption of the City of New Bedford from the ordinance so he has removed this from the draft. He also felt we should call this the Sassaquin Pond Watershed Protection Ordinance.
2. A discussion of the ordinances overlay districts and other case studies reviewed by Nitsch engineering ensued. Scott will pull out what he feels is relevant to the City from the various documents and forward that to the group.
3. A threshold for disturbance will need to be established.
4. Enforcement is a key element.
5. Format for the application – what needs to be in an application? This can be developed by reviewing the City draft stormwater Regulations application requirements as a starting point.
6. Craig brought up watershed delineation and Scott felt the Nitsch delineation was accurate for all stormwater inputs (groundwater inputs could be different). Sarah mentioned that Dennis brought up the fact that UMASS does not believe the watershed is big enough but UMASS doesn't provide a watershed map.
7. Look into the City Stormwater Regulations and Ordinance and see what you agree with so this can be cut & paste (such as the fines and some of the definitions).
8. Fertilizer prohibition – a fine for fertilizing with nitrogen or phosphorous.
9. Look at City exemptions (for example roof tops of 4000 s.f or less) and see if you agree with any of them.
10. Look at nutrients and decide if you want to include nutrient reduction targets for nitrogen and phosphorous.
11. Picking up after your pet – institute a fine for this?
12. Look at density of lots - but this would have to be in a zoning overlay district

We then went through each comment from Scott Turner's 12/2/2014 memo – highlights are presented below:

1. Scott explained what it would mean to mitigate for the total volume of stormwater – this is a larger amount of runoff than mitigating just for rate and makes it harder to comply with but provides better flood control.
2. Discussion about using the Cornell rainfall curves for analysis. These have higher rainfall intensities and are thought to better represent rain events.
3. More discussion on thresholds for disturbance and what other towns are doing – some towns have one threshold for land disturbance and one for the creation of impervious surfaces.
4. Some towns limit the amount of land you can disturb on a lot and limit the amount of lawn you can have.
5. Discussion on incorporating the credits or incentives to homeowners for reducing impervious surfaces or developing a vegetated buffer zone along the pond edge.
6. Grandfathering would have to be considered. Also what is considered previously developed. If a house once was on a lot is that previously developed or new development when a new homeowner wants to build there?