

**Leonard Mill Pond Collaborative Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**December 1, 2021**

As was done in 2020, the Leonard Mill Pond Collaborative (LMPC) annual meeting this year was held via Zoom. At any one time, we had approximately ten in attendance, and which included all five neighborhood association representatives.

Chuck Poole, Superintendent of Wicomico County Parks and Recreation, spoke to conditions involving management of water quality on the pond. He noted that for the past two years, there were staff shortages that prevented more frequent testing of weed growth that may have engendered weed control intervention. For 2022, he indicated that he would seek a renewal from the State of Maryland Department of the Environment for a weed control permit and that now that staffing has been restored, we should look to a two-phase treatment in the coming year. The first phase, involving treatment of hydrilla, will most likely take place in May and the second, for surface weed growth, will take place in August. Unless otherwise indicated, he said that the targeted weed treatment would focus on the northern and eastern prongs of the pond, where weed regeneration is likely to be the strongest.

Asked if any of the federal infrastructure fund might affect efforts to improve environmental quality management of the pond, Chuck indicated that at this point, it is too early to know what and/or how much funding would devolve down to the County level and what proportion might affect County Parks and Recreation. When asked about interactions with MDE in terms of County Parks and Recreation, Chuck indicated that other than our keeping him informed of our concerns over the retroactive permit application by the Ponds Edge II review by MDE, he had had no interactions with Ace Adkins or others at MDE regarding that decision. He did say that when capital improvements are under consideration, his office and MDE have and would be involved in collaboration and coordination, notably in reference to Pirates Wharf park as an example.

Steve Brewer suggested that stewardship of the pond habitat involves several stakeholders and that we should make every effort to have a broader communication framework as time goes forward. This includes the Town of Delmar, the City of Salisbury, MDE, the Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET), Aldi's, Panera Bread, Ponds Edge, in addition to Parks and Recreation, regarding any issues of common concern. We look to do so through identification of appropriate individuals and the institutions and organizations they represent.

In terms of LMPC organization going forward, while Treasurer Marilyn Booth was not able to join in our meeting, she had indicated previously that she would be willing to continue as Treasurer. Sharing that with those attending the Zoom meeting, I indicated that if those in attendance wanted us to continue, we would do so for the coming year.

In his closing remarks, Chuck Poole indicated that more people than ever appear to be using County Park and Recreation facilities. This means that insofar as LMPC is concerned, we need to maintain regular communication as to how we view our stewardship responsibilities and to communicate our concerns and plans with the requisite authorities of those associated with the

pond's habitat management. This said, our meeting ended at 7:30 p.m. A copy of these minutes will be distributed via email in addition to posting on the LMPC website at:

<https://msuweb.montclair.edu/%7elebelp/LeonardMillPondCollaborative.html>

As of December 8, 2020, the LMPC account stood at \$9,334.05, for which the only activity in 2021 was a bank account annual fee of \$44.00, leaving a balance as of December 1, 2021 at \$9,290.05.

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