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Subject: Plan for Avon Hall pond watershed improvement -- field session Dec. 17
with Lou Verner

Dear all,
THank everyone for a productive and informative work session dec. 17. Please reply to all with your additions and corrections to this summary.

Lou Verner (VA DGIF), Marc Malik, Forrest Marquisee, Jenny Fitzhugh, Jill Duval, John Sullivan and Laura Dodd (TOW), and Bev Hunter met on Dec. 17 and walked the grounds of Avon Hall to discuss the plan of work for the improvement of the pond and pond watershed. The discussion builds upon previous design by RappFLOW titled "Recommendations for Enhancing Avon Hall Pond".

The group discussed current status of the property, relationship with County-owned adjacent property within the watershed, connections with Old Rag Master Naturalists butterfly garden project and proposed Town nature trails, water levels in the pond, viewsheds, current land cover and geese population, obtaining additional water quality measures, methods for inventorying and monitoring species of plants and animals within the pond and watershed, goals for the improvement and restoration, best management practices for the various locations within the pond watershed, and phases of work.

1. Detailed site plan. Marc Malik agreed to add another level of detail to the existing site design drawings to include the areas around the pond including the buffer, currently mowed turf areas to the west and southwest of the pond, and the area between the pond and Warren Ave . This detail will include:

- the proposed nature trail, boardwalk, observation dock along Warrant Ave side of pond;
- wetland swale uphill towards the west towards the county offices,
- shrubs plantings (buttonbush, alder, silky dogwood, winterberry) on pond side of the dam, (Lou's opinion is that the large pines on the western downhill side of the pond are not a serious threat to the dam as long as they are alive.)
- reduced slope of bank and buffer of sedges and bushy bluestem on the buffer along the south side,
- and native grasses and forbs on the south uphill towards Avon Hall between the pond and the informal roadway that cuts across the now-mowed lawn.

THis updated plan will be added to the existing project plan document and submitted to the Town council for approval approximately February.

2. Ecological baseline and monitoring. Beginning as soon as possible, conduct and document field observations with local volunteer experts to inventory species of plants and animals on the site. For the geese, observe the population on a monthly basis, with more detailed observations during times when young are hatched. For amphibians, inventory as soon as the frogs can be heard in early spring. ORMN has a wildlife mapping project that might coordinate with this effort.

3. Plan of work.

- Create detailed site plan per above. Add new layers to Jonathan's GIS project for the TOW commons.

- Identify costs, sources, signage.
- Begin and continue ongoing inventory of plants and animals. Recruit local expert volunteers such as Sam Quinn, Donna Marquisee, Bruce Jones, others, Master Naturalists.
- (early spring) Bulldoze the south bank to reduce the slope to about 1:10 (this is approximately 150 feet long and will be about 20 feet wide). Obtain permit for the land disturbance?
- recruit volunteers for overall project and specific field days and tasks; agree upon responsibilities and schedules
- conduct public info sessions, lectures (Lou may be able to schedule this with rappflow or the town)
- identify sources of aquatic plants, emergent and floating. e.g. pickerel weed, arrowhead, soft rush. (see Lou's proposed plant list)
- plant aquatic plants (early spring)
- till buffer area and plant sedges and bushy bluestem (see Lou's proposed plant list)
- Seed upland areas (fall)
- Plant bank of dam with shrubs (fall 2013)
- Detail plan for boardwalk and dock (2014)

Happy holidays!

Bev Hunter, President, RappFLOW