

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:01 PM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Comment on Hammond Pond Project

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Abby Coffin [mailto:acoffin@mac.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:03 PM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Comment on Hammond Pond Project

The members of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club have been committed to the installation and the care of the bio-retention beds surrounding Hammond Pond and have worked closely with the City of Newton to ensure that the best and most appropriate plantings are used. This commitment has been both in monetary terms and in countless volunteer hours.

I speak for the membership when I say that our level of concern regarding the proposed changes to Hammond Pond is very high. While it is a very commendable goal to enhance the access to the Pond and the surrounding area, it is our belief that the first step should be remediation of the storm drains, parking lot drainage, and other factors that are damaging the health of Hammond Pond. We do not support the building of any structures in or around the Pond until the ecological function is fully restored.

It is our fervent hope that the DCR will look for solutions to remove invasives, dredge, repair storm drains and bring Hammond Pond back to good health. We stand ready to support such efforts and will hope that as guardians of this special resource and habitat, the DCR will not approve any construction at this time.

Abby Coffin - President of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:16 PM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: hammond pond  
Attachments: DCR letter.docx

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: Rzjhome@aol.com [mailto:Rzjhome@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:45 PM

To: Updates, Dcr (DCR); chavens@newtonma.gov;  
sender@senderlegalresearch.com; Ruth.Balser@mahouse.gov;  
rfuller@newtonma.gov  
Subject: hammond pond

To: The Department of Conservation and Recreation

Candace Havens, City of Newton

Jane Sender, Newton Conservation Commission

Representative Ruth Balser

Representative Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor Setti Warren

From: Rose Zoltek-Jick, 25 Moorfield Road

Re: Hammond Pond

Date: Monday, March 28, 2011

I am writing to follow-up on my remarks at the public meeting that was held on March 11, 2011. I am one of the few abutting homeowners to Hammond Pond and am writing in that capacity, and as a resident of Newton and a frequent user of the trail.

My home directly faces the Pond. We look out at it from our terrace, and from all of our windows. Conversely, anyone at a outlook spot and from any proposed boardwalk or pathway will be able to gaze at us -- unbeknownst to us -- much more easily than at present. Our privacy and our safety will be directly affected by any changes made to the existing vantage points. Anyone will be able far more easily to canvass our comings and goings, and at night, assess whether our home is occupied or not, in a way that will make us more vulnerable and exposed, and certainly will make us feel that way. We may be able to program our lights or draw our curtains to militate against some of this, but this proposal has the potential to drastically change the way we live in our home.

The westerly winds already draw the garbage dumped into the Pond to our shore, but increased use has the potential to make this a more serious issue. I already pick up beer and soda cans and glass containers all year from the bottom of our property, and I can only imagine the quantity that would now blow our way.

My concerns as a resident of Newton are primarily directed towards the enhancement of the health of the Pond and the preservation of the trails as a unique wilderness natural habitat. These two features deserve our

attention and our focus. We need to ascertain the health of the Pond and the measures and costs associated with bringing it back to health, and the budget needed to maintain and improve the adjacent trails. We already know that the Pond is in a sorry state, and it seems to me that any discussion of a Boardwalk -- let alone a proposed construction date of this summer as was posted at the meeting -- is premature until we have at least received the report outlining the ecological state of the Pond and the measures that will be needed to bring it back to health.

Indeed, the posting of a construction date BEFORE the receipt of the report (as was done at the public meeting) would give any fair-minded listener the impression that the offer from the private donor is not only driving the agenda but makes any real discussion of the desirability and appropriateness of any form of a boardwalk an empty exercise as a foregone conclusion.

In my view, a permanent walkway would fundamentally alter the character of the natural habitat. What is so special about that spot is that one tramps in the woods or rock climbs....and one can make believe that one is elsewhere in a magical world....that is not right next to a parking lot and a shopping mall. Its idiosyncratic nature is its charm.

National chains take over the main streets of our towns; every museum renovates to have a café and a gift shop. Let this place be.

And without an endowment, we may find ourselves as residents having to pay for the maintenance of structure that is out of character with the trails it is supposed to honor.

While I feel for the Rudyak family, their private desire to have a public memorial to honor their son's memory should not come at the expense--literally or figuratively--of the trails whose character we all love, and out of the pocketbooks of all of the residents of Newton. A structure will be there long after the money they have donated for its construction will be gone and we all have to live with its permanent maintenance and its anomalous character on the Pond.

Thank you for the opportunity to record my opinion that this process needs to be slowed down and re-prioritized to focus on the health of the Pond and the maintenance of the trails. Then and only then, can we assess what sort of lookout points, what form of additional recreation, and what kind of walkway, IF ANY, should be part of the appropriate future plan for this unique spot of nature.

Rose Zoltek-Jick

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:39 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Pfaelzer [mailto:carolpostpfaelzer@mac.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:12 PM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Cc: Ruthanne Fuller  
Subject: Hammond Pond

Hi! I am completely in favor of giving safe access to the pond. It has been neglected and pathetic looking for the 38 years I have lived in Newton as a neighbor to the pond. I would like to see more canoes on the pond. I could not be happier having the Russian family giving the funds to make the pond a beautiful place for the citizens of the area to enjoy in memory of their son. It is about time we fix up the pond. Carol Post Pfaelzer, 550 Beacon Street. P.S. Maybe if we make the pond a nice welcoming area less undesirable people selling and buying drugs would disappear. One can only hope. Thank you.

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:39 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Gridth Ablon [mailto:gablon@comcast.net]  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:50 AM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond

As a homeowner in Chestnut Hill I would like to voice my concern that increased traffic around and now also into the pond would easily upset the fragile ecosystems that are already stressed.

The intent of the proposal is excellent, making more of the pond accessible to people, but unfortunately it would lead to a different result.

Gridth Ablon, Ph.D.

Steven Ablon, M.D.

62 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Chestnut Hill, Ma. 02467

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:37 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond Matter

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: james c taylor [mailto:jctslf@comcast.net]  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:32 AM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Cc: 'verne vance'; dicktucker@hotmail.com  
Subject: Hammond Pond Matter

I am a resident of Chestnut Hill and, as such, am totally supportive of the viewpoint expressed in the recent letter written by Verne Vance of The Chestnut Hill Assn. to The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.  
Sincerely,

James C. Taylor, 14 Lawrence Road, Chestnut Hill, MA. 02467

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:37 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: Catherine Brigham [mailto:daycath1@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:14 AM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond

I agree with the CHA Board that the Pond first needs to be cleaned up and protected before any structures are built onto it.

Catherie Brigham

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:12 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond public comments

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Washburn [mailto:brian@may-apple.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 12:36 PM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond public comments

I am a resident of Newton and attended the March 10th meeting at Newton City Hall. I did not comment at the meeting because I wanted to consider the merit of all sides before making a statement.

I join some commenters at being dismayed that the DCR presentation conjoined the pond's environmental issues (eutrophication) with recreational issues (access and viewing). My personal opinion is that access and views of Hammond Pond are already adequate and appropriate, and don't need to be improved. On the other hand, I'm not opposed to access improvements as long as they don't spoil the existing natural views.

The extensive change suffered by the kettle pond in the last ~50 years trumps any access issues; the pond's transformation from that damage is ongoing. However, a DCR representative noted at the meeting that the gift the Rudyak family proposes would only supply access-related funds (building and installing structures). Funds to help restore the pond would have to come from someplace else.

I recommend a solution that conjoins the Rudyak's desire to build, with a project that -- if it doesn't fix the extensive damage already suffered by the pond -- reduces ongoing external damage from street and parking lot runoff, or somehow paves the way for future repairs. Some examples:

(1) A boat ramp that, while it prevents street/parking lot runoff from going directly the pond, would make it possible for DCR to get dredging equipment in & out of the pond easily. That would also allow recreational access for canoes/kayaks/boats.

(2) A viewing platform built over a large street runoff pipe, that as part of the plan has silt traps and other filtration inside/under the platform that helps filter out runoff sediments & pollutants.

(3) A walkway along the mall side of Hammond Pond that, as part of the structure, adds more water barrier/filtration than just the narrow swale between the parking lot and the pond.

To sum up, built into any proposed structure should be elements that help protect the pond from its runoff problems -- at least keeping further outside damage from compounding the pond's existing water quality and eutrophication issues. I would recommend the DCR accept a building project if it shows ingenuity in building a structure that protects Hammond Pond from additional outside environmental damage, that don't get in the way of the existing natural views. I would recommend that the DCR reject any proposal that doesn't conjoin both access and reducing Hammond Pond's outside environmental damage in one structure (e.g., no installing a walkway and claiming that new trees and shrubs planted alongside count for addressing the runoff problem.)

Brian Washburn  
Newton Centre

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:12 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond comments

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: Al Goldberg [mailto:algold1@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 10:09 PM  
To: Driscoll, Dan (DCR)  
Cc: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond comments

Dan -  
Found the 03/10/11 presentation; my comments:

1) The studies mentioned sound quite comprehensive. I presume those concerning vegetation growth will include the sources of nutrients and remedies to reduce them, and what to do with existing growths.

2) For reasons I don't know the geese seem to like the area around the waste pipe, near the Shopping Mall, as do occasional fishermen and picnickers, the latter no doubt due to the ease of parking. The wildlife tend to use the marshes to the left of that site for nesting. I note that area isn't included in your access places - suggest that it be left as is.

3) I hope the idea for a floating walkway of any size is dead. Not only due to the unnatural aspect, but it would be detrimental to wildlife who need to get to the shore. I suggest modest sized docks at the access points, near the shore, connected to the shore by a simple walkway. Picnic areas near the access points would be good.

4) As I mentioned over the phone there is a great deal of tree debris around and behind the rock cliffs - fallen trees, dead limbs, and so on. Perhaps a logging crew for a couple of days, who might also clear underbrush for a path up and behind the cliffs. Incidentally, I snowshowed a number of times above and behind the cliffs during the big snows - noting considerable foot traffic along with some crosscountry tracks.

Please add my email address to your list, I'd like to attend the upcoming Hammond Pond meetings. Also, if interested I have a few good jpg's of the cliff area with snow.

...Al Goldberg

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:46 AM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Pehlke [mailto:lpehlke@aol.com]  
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 8:08 PM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond

Hello: I am an area resident who has frequently enjoyed nature walks at Hammond Pond. I was unable to attend the March 10, 2011 presentation, but I have reviewed the presentation on-line and would like to submit the following comments:

- 1) There is a significant problem of off-leash dogs at this park. In fact, it has gotten so bad in recent years that I have often been dissuaded from visiting the park.
- 2) The existing trail system could benefit from trail markings, improved wetland walkways and signage.
- 3) While the current limited access to Hammond Pond is in some ways disappointing, I do not agree that we should allow/encourage fishing or boating. The quiet beauty of the water with the surrounding trees is best enjoyed visually from the shoreline.
- 4) Any new trail should be set back from the shore line a sufficient distance to prevent erosion. Path surfaces would preferably be pebble aggregate surface, not asphalt.
- 5) More frequent views and better access to the Pond should be gained through occasional look-outs made of wood. A good example for comparison is Hall's Pond Sanctuary in Brookline.
- 6) It is too intrusive to put walkways above the water, or to put large floating structures in the water. These types of structures will destroy the natural, quiet setting of the Pond.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Linda Olson Pehlke  
48 Browne St. #2  
Brookline, MA 02446  
From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:02 PM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: DCR PublicMeeting/HammondPond - March 10 at Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: roxyfield@comcast.net [mailto:roxyfield@comcast.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 10:34 PM  
To: DCR Updates (DCR)  
Subject: Re: DCR PublicMeeting/HammondPond - March 10 at Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium

Hi Wendy,

Thank you for the information. We were contacted at another time regarding this matter and hope to attend the meeting. In the event that we're unable to attend, we are against the proposal for public access around Hammond Pond which is beautiful in its natural state. There is enough traffic in the parking area which abuts the pond and this would only increase the traffic.

Thank you,

Roxanne and Michael Field

74 Longwood Rd.

Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

617-732-0027

----- Original Message -----

From: "DCR Updates (DCR)" <Dcr.Updates@state.ma.us>  
To: "roxyfield@comcast.net" <roxyfield@comcast.net>  
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:52:01 PM  
Subject: DCR PublicMeeting/HammondPond - March 10 at Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium

Public comments are most welcome at the public meeting and can also be shared with DCR by emailing [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us) or calling 617-626-4974.

A link to the presentation that will be given during the public meeting will be posted shortly after the March 10 at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/parklandspast.htm>.

We appreciate your interest and participation in our agency's public process.

For immediate release  
Wendy Fox

Contact:

February 28, 2011  
617-626-1453

DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACCESS ENHANCEMENTS AROUND HAMMOND POND IN NEWTON

WHAT: The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, March 10, to discuss and obtain public input on a proposal for enhanced public access around Hammond Pond in Newton. DCR recently awarded a Partnerships Matching Funds grant to the Michael Rudyak Memorial Fund for a study that will focus on the technical and environmental feasibility of constructing these enhancements.

WHEN: Thursday  
March 10, 2011  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

WHERE: Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:13 PM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond

Categories: Hammond Pond

From: Lawrence, David [<mailto:David.Lawrence@hines.com>]  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:27 PM  
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)  
Subject: Hammond Pond

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Department of Conservation and Recreation:

I attended the Public Meeting regarding the Proposed Hammond Pond Access Improvements at Newton City Hall during the evening of March 10, 2011.

I am sending this email to DCR to provide my responses to the questions presented in the Public Discussion Response Form provided at that meeting.

I appreciate the effort DCR is making to reach out to the community, present the goals and objectives defined so far, share information on proposed next steps and seek public response.

I am a property owner residing in the immediate vicinity of Hammond Pond, as our home is in the area of private ownership immediately to the east of the Pond.

Our visits to the Hammond Pond Reservation may occur several times a year. We get there on foot and those visits may be for an hour or two.

We enjoy walks in the woods with a dog and family members. The presence of the Pond is an important part of the experience as it is unusual to have such a large body of water in - mostly - such a natural state in such a relatively urban location for what is still - mostly - a relatively suburban neighborhood.

I value the natural state of the Pond most and that is what I think is most worth preserving - the aesthetic qualities and the habitat values are the most important.

I think this should be a visual experience for visitors and I do not think it is important for members of the public to be able to be on the water in any form of boat, with or without a motor.

I think all of the Hammond Pond Reservation should remain in its natural state, other than trails for walking that should be maintained and the repair and restoration of the southern edge of the Pond at the shopping center parking lot, which is an ecological disaster and land use planning case study of how a commercial presence should not be allowed to impose on a sensitive natural feature.

I believe actions that could improve the ecological health and the recreational value of the Pond should include reconstruction of a protected southern edge for the Pond with greater physical separation from the parking area of the shopping center, including more buffering with earth and vegetation from that adverse impact.

There should also be more filtration, bioremediation and control of the volume and velocity of water runoff from Route 9 and the shopping center parking lot, including the area where snow is stored in vast quantity following removal from the parking areas during the winter months.

I am in favor of allowing very limited construction of a boardwalk/viewing platform at the southern edge of the Pond as a part of the re-construction and protection of that devastated shoreline.

In this context, I believe "improvement" should mean restoration of natural character with only very minimal construction of structures.

A limited boardwalk/viewing platform would allow for more universal access and would require only minimal maintenance. That platform should not be lit and would not need snow removal.

I believe actions that could improve the ecological health and the recreational value of the parkland should include some timber management and trail maintenance and regular trash removal. Such actions will improve the appearance of the parkland, which will lead to more respectful behavior by users of that amenity.

I think the short term objectives for DCR to address should include a thorough study of the ecological health of the Pond and a determination of what actions can be implemented to limit and eventually eliminate the adverse human and commercial impact of nearby activity and what natural factors can be introduced or encouraged to reverse the ecological decline of the Pond.

Another short term objective should be to determine how to meet the objective of the private donor for a memorial which seems to require some physical construction, which I urge be of limited scope.

The longer term objectives should include how to reverse the natural impacts of acidic water in a kettle pond that I learned at yesterday evening's presentation may lead to irreversible extinction of a kettle pond by the buildup of sediment to a point where eventually a pond is replaced by upland. Perhaps that is an inevitable outcome, perhaps dredging is necessary or appropriate to allow this kettle pond to continue as a pond.

As mentioned above, but in response to the last series of questions on the response form, I believe any "walkway" to be constructed should be a viewing platform of limited size, it should be located at the south edge at the parking lot, it should be a simple and lasting design constructed of durable and treated wood and it should not be usable as a dock, although it could allow for fishing.

I did get the impression from the presentation on March 10, 2011 that "access improvements" are driving this effort and some ecological study and consideration of remediation efforts and habitat improvements have been more recently added to the overall effort.

I feel very strongly the balance of relative priority should shift significantly to be the reverse - the effort should instead be driven by ecological study and commitment to remediation efforts and habitat improvements with the added element of some very limited construction that will first support those specific priorities and then also allow for greater visual access to the Pond from the southern edge, where public access is most feasible and convenient.

Thank you for the information presented at last evening's meeting and for the opportunity to offer these thoughts.

David T. Lawrence

From: Updates, DCR (DCR)  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:10 PM  
To: Corsi, Richard (DCR)  
Subject: FW: Hammond Pond Comment

Categories: Hammond Pond

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Clarke [mailto:michael.clarke@bc.edu]  
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:47 PM  
To: dcr.updates@state.ma.us  
Subject: Hammond Pond Comment

The community appreciates the Rudyak family's desire to remember their bold and outstanding son, Michael, in a way that commemorates his life in relation to Hammond Pond. A platform and short boardwalk along the Chestnut Hill parking lot might be suitable. I've never canoed on

Hammond pond (perhaps it is too shallow); but if this is an appropriate activity, perhaps the commemorative platform could be used as a canoe launch. The family might even consider a memorial endowment that makes canoes available on weekends or for a period of time during the summer as a living memorial to their son.

From: bounce-278429-5861280@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Updates, Dcr (DCR) [Dcr.Updates@state.ma.us]

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:06 PM

To: Corsi; Richard

Subject: DCR PublicMeeting/HammondPond

Attachments: MediaAdvisory HammondPond.doc; Hammond Pond 3 10 11 public meeting notice.docx

Categories: Hammond Pond

For immediate release  
Wendy Fox

Contact:

February 28, 2011  
617-626-1453

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`Richard.Corsi@state.ma.us`.

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