

**PONDS AND WATERWAYS COMMITTEE
TOWN OF SUDBURY**

**Voted to establish May 3, 2005 by the Sudbury Board of Selectmen
Revised October 11, 2018
Revised Jun 25, 2019**

Background

It is the intention of the Selectmen in creating this Committee to provide a mechanism for the Board to be advised on the quality of publicly owned ponds and waterways throughout Sudbury. The Ponds and Waterways Committee (PWC) will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and other standing Town committees. While the Committee will not have the power to commit town resources or approve projects, it is the Selectmen's intention to support reasonable actions and recommendations of the Committee that are harmonious with the Master Plan and the published goals of the Board of Selectmen to the extent that Town Bylaws, Town Meeting action, budgetary limits, and the approval of the Park and Recreation and Conservation Commissions permit.

Mission

The mission of the Ponds and Waterways Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen on the condition of the Town's major ponds, waterways and tributaries, recommending remediation strategies where necessary, in order to enhance opportunities for both active and passive recreational use as appropriate.

Responsibilities

- Monitor: Pond and stream water quality and wildlife monitoring will provide an important scientific database for future actions.
- Educate: The Committee must raise public awareness, provide education about the problems and solutions, and build public support in the community for the proposed monitoring and remediation efforts.
- Build a Constituency: The Committee should consider the citizens of Sudbury as a key constituency whose support and cooperation will be of critical importance.
- Report: Report annually to the Board of Selectman regarding ponds and waterways quality and their potential for public recreational usage.
- Review: Participate in the review of the Town Meeting articles and present comments and recommendations on those that affect the ponds and waterways.
- Engage: Undertake all such other actions and activities as are consistent with this charge.

Membership and Officers

The Ponds and Waterways Committee shall have five voting members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. All appointments shall be for a term of three years. All Committee members shall be

expected to educate themselves as necessary so as to enable them to make valuable contributions to the Committee's work. Appointments shall be staggered: no more than three members' terms will end in one year and two in the following year. The regular members will elect a chair and clerk each year from among their number. In addition, the Conservation Coordinator, Town Planner, Board of Health Director, Parks and Recreation Director, and Town Engineer, or his/her representative(s), may serve as liaisons and resources to the Committee.

The Committee may from time to time, with approval from the Board of Selectmen, create subcommittees or ad hoc advisory boards comprised of various persons with scientific and regulatory expertise regarding the various biological, ecological, environmental, recreational, hydro geologic and hydraulic issues associated with pond and waterway sustainability. However, no subcommittee or ad hoc advisory board shall be created which duplicates or overlaps the mission or efforts of any other Town committee or subcommittee already existing. Committee members may participate in subcommittees, task forces or working groups related to these subjects that are created by the Board of Selectmen or others.

Relationship of Ponds and Waterways Committee to Standing Boards, Committees and Town Officers

The Ponds and Waterways committee will need to collaborate with Town departments, committees and citizen groups to achieve these responsibilities. In so doing, the Committee will respect the following guidelines established by the Board of Selectmen:

- Should the Board of Selectmen, upon receipt of a proposed strategy, vote not to pursue such a strategy, no member of this committee will bring such a strategy to Town Meeting for funding or implementation as a petitioner unless such individual first resigns as a member of the Ponds and Waterways committee.
- Any strategy for enhanced and changed recreational opportunities related to ponds and waterways shall be presented to the Park and Recreation Commission, who shall have responsibility for recommending said recreational opportunity to the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. No action of the PWC shall intrude upon the responsibilities of the Park and Recreation Commission.
- Any strategy for enhanced remediation efforts of ponds and waterways shall be presented to the Conservation Commission, who shall have responsibility for recommending said remediation effort to the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. No action of the PWC shall intrude upon the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission.
- Any requests for funding to the Community Preservation Committee, state or federal agencies, or the Sudbury Foundation shall have the prior approval of the Board of Selectmen as well as the Park and Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission. If a project is funded by any of these or similar agencies, funds for all such projects shall be expended under the direction of the Town Manager.

Compliance with State and Local Laws

The Ponds and Waterways Committee is responsible for conducting its activities in a manner which is in compliance with all relevant state and local laws and regulations including but not limited to the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, and Conflict of Interest Law.