

Medfield Conservation Commission
2024 Warrant Article
Request for Funds for Ponds Survey

The Medfield Conservation Commission is requesting \$20,000 to fund a ponds survey. The ponds that would be surveyed would include: Kingsbury Pond, Danielson Pond, Flynn's Pond, Meeting House Pond, and Vine Lake. Kingsbury, Danielson, and Flynn's ponds are under the care, custody, and control of the Conservation Commission. Meeting House Pond is under the care, custody, and control of Parks and Rec. Vine Lake is under the care, custody, and control of DPW/Water and Sewerage Board.

In 2005, the Conservation Commission established a "Clean Pond Study Group," which was charged with reviewing the health of Vine Lake (Cemetery Pond), Meeting House, Danielson, and Kingsbury ponds in response to increasing concerns over potentially declining water quality and increasing vegetation growth in the more high profile ponds in Medfield. The Clean Pond Study Group included representatives from various town boards including Parks and Rec, Select Board, Conservation Commission, and DPW. At the time, the Clean Pond Study Group decided to survey three of the identified ponds in order to establish baseline conditions to help identify treatment and management plans, if any, that would be appropriate. Surveys were to include baseline biological information which would necessitate some water quality sampling, dominant vegetation identification and mapping, and a morphometric (size/shape/depth) investigation. The Clean Pond Study Group selected Aquatic Control Technology, Inc of Sutton, MA to perform field data collection and to issue a final report interpreting data and recommending pond management and treatment options if and as feasible, necessary, and appropriate. The town voted to fund this effort with \$5,000, which request was made via an article on the town warrant. The three ponds studied included Meeting House Pond, Danielson Pond, and Vine Lake (Cemetery Pond). In January 2006, Aquatic Control Technology issued a document entitled: 2005 Medfield Ponds Baseline Assessment."

By 2007, the Clean Pond Study Group had added Flynn's Pond to the list of ponds to be studied, and, in 2007, Aquatic Control Technology was charged to under take the same survey of Flynn's Pond and Kingsbury Pond as had been performed in 2005 on the other ponds. Aquatics Control Technology issued a baseline assessment for these ponds in 2007.

Since the first \$5,000 was secured at town meeting, the Conservation Commission has annually requested \$5,000 for pond assessment and maintenance. The amount has not increased over the years. As a result, over the last 19 years the funds available for pond maintenance have not been sufficient to treat all of the ponds in any one season and, most importantly, the funds have not been insufficient to cover the costs of periodic updated surveys. The Commission, at this point in time, does not know whether treatment of the ponds for vegetation management is even necessary and, if it is, whether the appropriate treatment method is being employed. It is the Commission's understanding that, over time and given the limited funds available, the town has employed the least expensive treatment option to manage the vegetation in as many (but not all) ponds as possible per year. This approach does not allow for use of treatment methods most responsive to the actual conditions at any pond, and it does not guarantee that the ponds that are

getting treatment need treatment.

The Commission is requesting funds to allow it to hire a consultant to survey Vine Lake, Danielson, Kingsbury, Flynn's, and Meeting House ponds and to collect data that will help the Commission determine whether the conditions at any of these ponds warrant treatment and, if so, what the treatment should be in light of current pond conditions, current technology and current plant and water body science.

The Commission has asked pond/lake management and treatment consultants about the costs associated with a ponds survey for the identified Medfield ponds, and the Commission understands that the amount of \$20,000 should enable the Commission to hire a consultant to survey the ponds and produce sufficient information to enable management decisions to be made on current data and good science for the health of the ponds.

On behalf of the Medfield Conservation Commission
Deborah J. Bero, Chair,

April 1, 2024