

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
TOBY'S POND MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

Richard Minnick called the Toby's Pond Meeting of February 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Richard Minnick, First Selectman Gerard Smith, Selectman David D'Amico, Michael Krenesky, Stephen Knapik, Joseph Rodorigo, Dominick Sorrentino, Peter Betkoski, Steve Ruhl, Charles Edwards, Elizabeth Edwards, Noralie D'Amico, Don Forretti, Kurt Hummel, David Pasko, Annalie Bouchard, Mike Bouchard and Len Green.

First Selectman Smith stated he is excited and hopes to get a lot of support to turn Toby's Pond into something to be proud of. He hopes it could be pulled together by May 1st for the Riverfest.

Rich gave the following overview: the project goes back many years ago. O&G presented a closure plan to restore the area by the bridge per order of the DEP. It was design to do a natural flush and is designed to flood. O&G acquired additional property which was part of the agreement closure agreement. Since the pond was taken over by the town, it has flooded four times. The design was intended to flow over the flat area under the bridge over the north spillway into the pond and out the southern spillway.

There were discussions of turn it over to a private club or organization. A company wanted to use it for water skiing. The DEEP was opposed since they felt that the berm between the river and the pond would be severely eroded by ski boats. The berm itself had already washed out once before the restoration was completed. The elevations were incorrect there. Design changes in various locations in the river such as large rocks were installed in to divert it away from the berm. The flow that comes down the river carries in a lot of debris

Since the property was acquired the Town has not performed any maintenance.

In trying to turn it over to a private company, there are restrictions of what can be done. Because it is in a flood plain, no buildings can be erected. The entrance is on state owned with easements to the town. Basically, it is would be difficult to transfer this to a private firm.

The boat ramp at the north spillway has washed out on several occasions. O&G will remove the material and will be armoring the spillway. A design is needed so when the water flows it does not come down the access road. O&G is responsible for this area.

The Town Crew will be widening the access road past the new boat launch area. A turnaround area will be made at the location of the gate to the railroad tracks and will include some handicap parking. O&G will be responsible and upgrading and restoring the boat launching area. Steps will be included.

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The access into the area currently is underneath the trestle – Lopus Road and Pines Bridge Road. Some of the Town emergency vehicles cannot get access underneath the bridge. Discussion is progressing with O&G to provide additional access for larger vehicles. The main gate will be kept open for the public unless there is a major storm event or flooding occurring.

The Town is looking for O&G to provide material to build the steps at various locations along the west bank to provide access to the ponds edge. This should prevent some of the erosion that is occurring and allow grasses to grow. The steps can be made of flat stones, landscape timber, paving rocks, etc.

A program to control the various weeds and brush will be established. It is proposed that the Japanese knotweed needs to be removed by a mowing and spraying program.

Areas that have washed out along the bank will bank will be evaluated. Stephen Knapik and his group will develop and propose recommendations on how repair. There is one bridge on the west side which totally washed out and needs immediate replacement. The span of the bridge will to be longer than the bridge that was there now. The contractors and the town crew will be getting together to determine how wide to make the bridge without it becoming a highway. The following contractors have volunteered: Stephen Knapik, Charles Edwards, Brian Swan, Peter Betkoski and E. J. Smiths. Stephen Knapik, will be the coordinator for the contractors.

The water is tested periodically as part of the DEEP mandate. The wells are being monitored from the O&G site and Haynes site. The water coming into Toby's Pond has been clean. The flooding causes the water quality to change. Army Corps of Engineers has been involved.

Grills and picnic tables (western walkway) can be placed but they will need to be fastened down. Many of the tasks can be accomplished by volunteers such as the Scouts, other organizations and citizens.

The outlet spillway (concrete blocks tied together with heavy cable) is heavy with debris. The material has to be removed.

A discuss of fencing along railroad was held.

Insurance for workers and volunteers was discussed. The Town has an insurance policy. Standard safety procedures should be used.

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The path on the top of berm, east side, needs to be cleared. Guidance will be provided to clear the brush along the river.

Signage is needed for: no parking, parking area, proposed fishing regulations, caution railroad, park regulations, recycling and boat launch area and for any other signage which may be needed.

Rich suggested passes for in town residents and outside of town.

There was discussion concerning a swimming area. Water quality monitoring should be established first. The south end may be considered as this is shallowest part of the pond.

No alcohol should be allowed at Toby's Pond.


As for trash, what you bring it in; you take it out to reduce the amount of trash. Signage will be needed.

The scouts will help with clean up and remove brush. Community Service for the high school students can be utilized. Joe Rodorigo mentioned the Pepsi Corporation has a volunteer project program which the Town can apply. Pepsi Corporation will send volunteers and supplies if the Town is chosen.

There will be a meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Toby's Pond.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryann Kempa
Clerk