

**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. It was design to do a natural flush. Since the pond was taken over by the town, it has flooded four times. What it was supposed to do is flow over the flat area under the bridge to the spillway to the bottom. O&G acquired additional property which was part of the agreement. The area is designed to flood.

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 against that because the berm which is the piece of Town land between the river and the pond would be severely eroded by ski boats. The berm itself has already washed out once before the construction was completed at the other end of it. The elevations were incorrect there. Design changes in different places and rocks were installed in different places to try to keep it away from the berm itself. The flow that comes down the river brings in a lot of debris

Since the property was acquired the Town has not done any maintenance. In trying to turn it over to a private company, there are restrictions of what can be done. No buildings can be built, as it is in a flood plain. State easements are difficult to obtain. Basically, it is not feasible. In the meantime it is deteriorating.

The north area where the boat ramp was is washed out. There is a lot of material in there. O&G has come back and is armoring. The material is to be removed and stabilization of the area. A design is needed so when the water flows it does not come down the access road. Heavier rip rap is being put in where the boat ramp was. O&G is responsible for this area.

Along the access way it is the Town's responsibility, the Town crew has started some of the project. O&G will be restoring the boat launching area. Steps need to be built to be able to launch the boats. Where the gate is now, there is a proposed turn around area. Handicapped parking is needed.

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. The road from O&G has large concrete blocks which they remove and put back as they need access. Along the railroad abutment, is a big white fence. Rich is proposing to O&G to take the fence and move it as heavy equipment will need access into that area. People are not to drive up to this area; it will be under lock and key. O&G, Emergency and the Town crew will only have access. 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 to access the pond. It is not being stabilized because people are walking up and down the bank wherever they want. Steps can be made of flat stones, landscape timber, paving rocks, etc. once the final design of the boat launch area and other areas.

Bush needs to be removed by the Town. Japanese knotweed needs to be removed by mowing and spraying. The spray has been approved by DEEP. The west side is restricted because of the Japanese knotweed. There are areas that have washed under the railroad tracks and culvert because of last year's storms. Stephen Knapik and his group are to come and give a recommendation on how to fix it. The following contractors have volunteered: Stephen Knapik, Charles Edwards, Brian Swan, Peter Betkoski and the Smiths. Stephen Knapik, will be coordinator for the contractors. There is one bridge on the west side which totally washed out and needs immediate replacement. The contractors and the town crew should get together to determine how wide to make the bridge without it becoming a highway. The equipment needs to get through there. The span of the bridge is going to be longer than the bridge that was there now. Addition concrete blocks should be evenly placed. The channel is too narrow. The blocks were not set deep enough and has undermined underneath. 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 is involved. The pond is in the flood plain.

Grills and picnic tables (western walkway) can be put in but they need to be fastened down. The watershed area needs to be repaired. Volunteers are needed to put in the steps. The Scouts can help identify the trees on the west side that are there.

The outlet spillway (concrete blocks tied together with heavy cable) there is a lot of heavy debris down there. The material has to be removed as it six or eight inches above the spillway. There is a need for fencing because of the proximity to the railroad tracks.

The southern spillway needs to be removed and inspected. The debris from the outlet pipe needs to be removed.

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

The path on the top of berm needs to be cleared. The brush along the river cannot be cleared without guidance from DEEP or Southwest Conservation District or other appropriate professional.

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 Roderigo 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