

West Hill Pond Association Annual Meeting  
August 27, 2015 - 7PM Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford

Attendees: Skip Sly, Jim Waters, Bill Adamsen, Dan Jerram, Larry Gauvain, Mary Hourdequin, Tom Sloss, Dave Bayajian. Observers: Peter Humphrey and Steve Unger

1. Call to order - Skip commenced meeting
2. Approval of Last Year's Minutes: Approved as presented.
3. (a) Water Rights Committee report - 2 foot drawdown this year; next year - 3 foot drawdown. Inform constituent groups that any work requires permit from Inland Wetlands Commission. Bill commented on high cost of permits. Usually have 2-3 years to complete work once permit granted.  
(b) Gate House: Door repaired. Trash gate not yet repaired, will be done this winter. Dam inspected early in year--satisfactory rating (2nd highest) received. Need to address several deficiencies per report, such as update of fill voids on side of gatehouse, removal of stones at outlet, repointing of masonry, and cutting of brush on downstream slope on a more regular basis (Barkhamstead has been doing this latter item gratis). Skip spoke to Barkhamstead First Selectman re plowing snow away from gatehouse on downstream side of dam.  
(c) Insurance: Last October, insurance company informed would no longer insure; no other company willing to provide modest insurance for dam; now working with Town of Barkhamstead, and LAPOA to obtain insurance thru Town of Barkhamstead. LAPOA owns land and Barkhamstead has deeded right of way for Perkins Road. Pond Association is official owner of dam. (Currently not insured.)  
(d) EOP\*: Larry updated the Plan by contacting home owners within 20 feet from Morgan Brook (22 properties). Plan is updated every five years. Updated Plan sent to DEEP. (Bill plans to post inspection report and EOP on website.) Bill raised question re volumes of water spilling over dam; might be helpful to test water chemistry and flow at outlet as part of overall testing. Bill will follow-up with George Knoecklein
4. Weed Harvesting/Monitoring: Two days completed in August. Large leaf pond weed was focus. Red leaf pond weed gone from Ross Cove for first time in recent years. Density less than in past years, although Teddy Bear had a fair amount of large leaf. Not losing ground in this effort. Overall seem to be holding our own. Tom asked why we cut back to two days; Skip said two days gives us about 90%. It should be noted that only littoral zone (10-15') around Teddy Bear and certain shore line areas can support weed growth. "What is different this year?" Bill asked. Lake very clear this Spring when secchi disk readings done. Lake frozen until April 21. Larry asked why growth greater in certain areas--shallower, siltation, runoff and sunlight. Questions re aquatic screens which are set and later removed. Didn't do anything this year with screens; we could put them down. Need flat area to make it work; best for shallow ponds. Tom spoke re use

of chemicals based on article he read; Bill will post article on website. Chemical control would most likely only be used on aquatic invasive weeds.

Question raised about educating folks around the lake. Guests Steve Unger and Peter Humphrey responded by explaining Lake Smart program (handout) and their efforts to date. Additional email addresses can be easily added to their data base. (Northwest conservation district has good resources.) Greg Bugbee might be a good resource. Maybe, next year, Boy Scouts could be more involved with educating scout leadership and conservation efforts. Dave described Sequassen waterfront pea stone lakefront installation. Discussed best sand for those who have beaches around lake.

5. Water Testing Update: Results of monitoring effort reported by Bill, per handout. WHLSPOA Water Quality Committee decided on watershed survey based on Lenard report from several years ago. Monthly water sampling/monitoring since April with purchased equipment. Bill explained chart (handout) graphing results. (Temp, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, etc measured weekly now; baseline data being recorded. A very small amount of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) was found in one area. This algae is toxic and large quantities can result in lakes being closed to swimming. Plan of Conservation and Development (Bill) - Five WHLSPOA members spoke and provided written comments which were incorporated in final plan. Strategic road map. Skip mentioned looking at protecting large tracts of undeveloped land. Boy Scouts do not have conservation easements on WH properties, although they envision maintaining current usage of land by Boy Scouts. A large part of watershed on west side of lake is in Barkhamstead and they do not have 4-acre zoning which could be an issue; might be good to start a dialogue with Barkhamstead re this issue.

6. Website Update: WHLSPOA Website maintained by Bill. Handout detailed data including 34 posts, 36 pages, 4,076 users. Large number of users are fishermen. Has tweeter feed with weather. Great videos. Possibility of seeking Pond Association contributions through PayPal.

7. Treasurer's Report/Finances (Skip) - Fiscal year 8/1 through 7/31. Reviewed handout (Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Budget Overview). Current bank balance is \$25,000. Balance for the one-year limnology study is \$28,000. Engineering costs for storm water runoff mitigation plans and spillway enlargement are included in next year's budget. The projected income of \$40,000 is slightly lower than projected expenses of \$45,000. The current balance is expected to cover the projected budget deficit.

8. Election of officers - Tom presented slate as written and presented. Approved by all.

9. Old/new Business - Grant possibilities - get to Bill with ideas. Tom will put together some short pieces re what homeowners can do. Skip talked about upcoming "branding" session with Joe Hoke.

10. Adjournment.

\*(EOP –Emergency Operations Plan)