

January 2010 meeting was cancelled.

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**Amesbury Lakes & Waterways Commission**

**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of February 17, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Bill Rudolph, Bruce Georgian, Jay Knapp, Mark Sydlowski, Donna Gilberti.

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes of December 16, 2009 were approved by Bruce Georgian and Jay Knapp as written.

**A. Engineers Report**

No update at the present time.

**B. Current Business**

Massachusetts Training Course link will be sent to all L&WW members.

**C. Lake Gardner**

- a. Weed Assessment Grant (Non-Point Source Pollution): Had a planning meeting on the grant with the consultant.
- b. Will start water sampling via volunteers near all 8-9 outflow areas.
- c. Will sample first flush water sampling also.
- d. Bruce will meet with volunteers around the end of March.
- e. Plan is to have the study done by the end of the summer.
- f. Report then completed. Then submit for a secondary grant to enact solutions.

**D. Hilary Snook Presentation (EPA) on Lake Attitash:**

Shoreline protection presentation with cyanobacteria.

**E. Watershed Management Plan Update:**

- a. Greg is currently making modifications to the document.

- b. Greg needs assistance from DPW with respect to the depth of a proper drawdown. This to potentially modify the WMP.
- c. The document is getting close to being complete with modifications
- d. Timeline for the WMP is by this spring. So potential implementation of potential changes can be managed in the fall.

## **F. Tuxbury Pond Camp Expansion:**

- a. The State of NH is going to put a cease and desist order on the expansion.
- b. A new permit will potentially need to be issued for future expansion.

## **G. 8 Towns and a Bay: Bill Rudolph**

Household pharmaceutical management via better practices versus sewer disposal (sink, toilet, etc).

Next meeting is the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.



**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of March 17, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Bill Rudolph, Jay Knapp, Cindy Roberts, Donna Gilberti, Rob Desmarais

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes of February 1, 2010 were approved by Jay Knapp and Bill Rudolph, as written.

**A. Engineers Report**

- a. Rain storms over the weekend of March 13<sup>th</sup> were disastrous for the town. Flooding and high flows have been a challenge to control and have resulted in damage to many of the town's waterways and stormwater infrastructure.
- b. The Crib Dam held up fine while flow topped the spillway at Lake Gardner Dam and Tuxbury Pond Dam.
- c. High water level in Lake Attitash resulted in 4-inches of water over the Birchmeadow Road.
- d. High flows have created a failure of Archbrook culvert. A large sink hole with water pooling inward now exists adjacent to the inlet of the culvert. It is assumed that there is a breach in the culvert. DPW is deliberating how to control the situation, prevent a greater problem and eventually fix the breach. Water is being diverted through the State Line Dam to reduce the flow through Archbrook culvert.
- e. There is significant damage to Pleasant Road due to flooding, erosion and tidal fluctuations. A portion of the road is closed and will required significant repair.
- f. Resident appeal of the improvements to the Newton Road dam remains active and is currently being reviewed by lawyers at DEP.

**B. General Business**

- a. Weed Assessment Grant (Non-Point Source Pollution) for Lake Gardner: Work on this project is in progress.
- b. The Tuxbury Pond camp ground expansion remains active. The South Hampton planning board has again extended the approval process. The owner is currently being required to first address concerns with the existing sewage disposal system and drinking water well before expansion can be considered.
- c. Update of the Watershed Management Plan requires input for DPW and methods for gaining their assistance were discussed. DPW has documents with data required of the revised document and will be emailed to Greg Roy. It was suggested that the next Commission meeting be used to review the final



edits. It was also suggested by Rob Desmarais that the Commission move forward in scheduling a public meeting for discussion of the revised document. The Conservation Commission needs to be involved in the process to simplify final approval by that Commission.

- d. 8-Towns and a Bay have grant funding available for coastal communities and are thinking of making it available for stormwater control and treatment. Bill will update the commission regarding final plans for this funding and if Amesbury can pursue some of this assistance.
- e. The annual schedule for catch basin and street cleaning were again discussed with no planned change. The Town's fiscal schedule prohibits a change to this schedule.
- f. EPA is currently sampling water in Lake Attitash in an attempt to characterize any pollution coming from Sargents Farm. The lawyer for Lake Attitash Association has submitted a letter to DEP outlining reasons for non compliance at this composting facility. Our Commission is eager to hear the reaction to this correspondence.
- g. The Lake Attitash Association is pursuing a state grant for the control of invasive weeds. Studies have been completed and the problem has been well documented. The grant funds would be used to remove the weeds.
- h. Greg Roy mentioned that the Commission will need to have elections within the next couple months. Work obligations will require him to be unavailable for many of the meetings over the next year or two. It has been suggested that a new chairman be elected.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2010.

The meeting concluded at 8:05 PM.



**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of April 22, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**Amesbury Lakes & Waterways Commission**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Peter Manor, Donna Gilberti, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Mark Sydlowski and Rob Desmarais.

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The meeting began at 6:45 PM.

**A. Engineers Report**

- a. Lake Attitash is at normal pool.
- b. Arch Brook structure still has a sink hole but continues to convey flow.
- c. Water is at winter drawdown level at all 4 water bodies.
- d. Lake Gardner and Tuxbury pond are fine.
- e. No flow of water is going from Tuxbury back into Meadowbrook.
- f. The Tuxbury Pond Campground must fix all their existing problems prior to opening this summer.

**B. Watershed Management Plan**

- a. L&W will start to publish the WMP for public comment.
- b. Would like to have a public meeting during the last week of May.
- c. Schedule room at the Cultural Center for this meeting.
- d. May have an article written on this meeting to be posted in the paper.
- e. Greg will put together a Power Point presentation for the public meeting.
- f. A variety of agreed upon changes were put in to the WMP. There will be no change to the existing table detailing seasonal water elevation changes. Weed draw down low level elevations were agreed to. They are 93' for Attitash/Meadowbrook, 92' for Tuxbury and 81.4' for Gardner.
- g. A draft of the WMP will be posted on the L&W website.

**C. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. The public meeting in May will be a joint meeting with the Con Com at the Cultural Center.
- b. Looking at the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> of May, in the evening for this Public Meeting.
- c. June meeting will be dedicated to finalizing the WMP and notice of intent.
- d. Anticipate being on agenda with Con Com in July.

**D. Boat Ramp Signs:**

- a. Cindy Roberts new sign has been approved to be placed at the Lake Attitash boat ramp.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.



**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of May 26, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**Amesbury Lakes & Waterways Commission**

MEETING MINUTES:

**Present:**

Lakes and Waterways: Greg Roy, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Jay Knapp, John Vigliotti, Donna Gilberti and Eric Bezanson

DPW: Rob Desmarias

Conservation: Not present

Public: Residents around Lake Attitash and Lake Gardner. John Vigliotti was the representative from Tuxbury Pond. We don't believe anyone appeared from Meadowbrook Lake.

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The meeting was a public hearing and began at 6:38 PM.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the changes requested to the Amesbury Watershed and Waterway Management Plan. The existing plan was developed in 1999. The Powerpoint presentation will be posted to the Lakes and Waterways website.

The requested modifications to the plan include:

1. Extend plan coverage to the Merrimac river
2. To establish weed drawdown procedures
3. To gain authority to implement all procedures in the plan
4. Not intended to flooding or algae issues

Weed drawdowns:

1. Are different than seasonal drawdowns
2. Are a low cost method to slow the progression of invasive weeds
3. Will not eliminate weeds
4. Have advantages and disadvantages

Weed drawdown protocol:

1. Include Lake Attitash, Meadowbrook, Tuxbury Pond and Lake Gardner
2. Will be conducted between November 15 and April 1<sup>st</sup>
3. Start date and minimum drawdown levels in considerate of fisheries or wildlife habitat
4. Draw down to expose shore before surface water freeze

Weed draw down levels:

Lake Attitash: 93'

Lake Gardner: 81.4'

Meadowbrook Pond: 93'

Tuxbury Pond: 92'

### Advantages of weed drawdown

1. Low cost method
2. Proven effective when conducted routinely
3. Will maintain healthy water bodies

### Disadvantages of weed drawdown

1. Possible impact to private water supplies
2. Potentially stress fisheries and wildlife
3. Could increase algae production through nutrient releases of weed kill
4. Will effect winter recreation uses

### Question and Answer Period

- Bernadette Lucas (Lake Gardner): Concerned about the process to refill the lakes to ensure that the weeds die. In addition, she requested that the drawdown is not done every year.
- Steve Cynewski (Lake Gardner): Concerned about all of the dead weeds ending up at his home at the end of the lake.
- Bruce McBrien (Lake Gardner): Mentioned the timing of the drawdown to protect the turtles.
- Bruce Georgian would like November 1<sup>st</sup> to be the start date to draw down.
- Andrew Benson (Lake Gardner): Believes that a drawdown will not impact the weeds. Weeds in the lake will still be in the lake. He's very concerned about the horse farm, Quinn farm, storm drains, new construction and fertilizers. Without stopping the source of the problem, the problem will continue. Asked if the main sewerline could cause a problem. Rob Desmarais said that the sewerline is 14' in the ground with no pressure. Also asked what weeds will benefit from the drawdown.
- Jasmine (Lake Gardner): Has a view of the lake and is concerned that a drawdown would impact her home value if she was to sell. Wanted to make sure that the drawdown wouldn't be longer than a year.
- Bruce Georgian: Shared that Lake Gardner applied and received a \$50,000 grant to research the sources of the nutrients and study the problems on the lake. A secondary grant will be applied for to address those problems.
- Bernadette Lucas (Lake Gardner): asked about the dam repair from many years ago and said that the drawdown successfully killed the weeds.
- John Vigliotti said that past drawdowns on Tuxbury Pond were successful. He was one of the people who stopped the drawdowns and now wished that he hadn't.

- Sonja Shine (Lake Attitash): spoke on extensive flooding damage on Birch Lane.
- Jack Sanborn (Lake Attitash): Shared that when drawdowns had been done in the past on Lake Attitash the weeds started later in the summer. Also questioned the flooding problems on the lake. Rob confirmed that there have been seven 100 year floods since 1987 (1987, 1996, 1999, 2006, 3 in 2009). Water is kept back in Lake Attitash to keep the roads open and prevent flooding damage to downtown Amesbury. The control structures are not FLOOD control structures. Some of the flooding problems on Lake Attitash are due to Archbrook failures. The control structure is out of date, too small and has had three temporary repairs.
- Andrew Benson (Lake Gardner): Concerned about winter enjoyment activities, such as skating, ice boat sailing, skiing.
- Bernadette Lucas (Lake Gardner): highly recommends the drawdown.
- John Vigliotti: draw down effective
- Andrew Benson (Lake Gardner): Concerned about wildlife

The Lakes and Waterways Commission and DPW are recommending that drawdowns be available to the DPW and will file a NOI with the Conservation Commission.

The meeting ending at 7:56PM. The next meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of June 17, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Eric Bezanson, Cindy Roberts, Bill Rudolph, Bruce Georgian, Mark Sydlowski, Jay Knapp, Rob Desmaris and Peter Doran of The Lake Attitash Committee.

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes of the last meeting / Open Meeting regarding the Watershed Management Plan which were prepared by Cindy Roberts. The minutes were approved and accepted.

### **A. Engineers Report**

- a. All lakes are at normal pool. Arch Brook is slightly below, but no repairs will be applied to correct at this time. Not a major factor.
- b. Lake Gardner suffered minor damage in winter. Nothing significant.
- c. Water treatment plant is going forward as planned.

### **B. Peter Doran: Lake Attitash Concerns**

- a. When lake levels were lowered in the winter, the water quality was better, the volume of weeds was much lower, and the flooding was not as much of a problem. This is general feed back from a variety of property owners whom have lived there for 20+ years.
- b. The feeling is that a drawdown would refresh the lake each year, and eliminate many of the negative characteristics.
- c. In years past, when there was a drawdown, there was minimal spring flooding on the properties around the lake. Now, without a major winter drawdown, flooding has become a primary issue.
- d. Discussed the issue of Arch Brook and its need to be repaired. This repair would allow for greater control of a variety of water levels during a variety of periods.

### **C. Watershed Management Plan Status**

- a. Notice of Intent needs to be drafted and could be filed in the near future.
- b. Deadline for presentation of the WMP Notice of Intent to the Conservation Committee is July 6<sup>th</sup>.

- c. Conservation Committee meeting is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- d. Letters of support from the Lake Attitash Committee and the Lake Gardner Committee with respect to the WMP Notice of Intent would be very good to have.

### **D. Tuxbury Pond Camp Expansion:**

No report

### **E. 8 Towns and a Bay: Bill Rudolph**

Meeting coming up next Monday. Supposedly a \$200,000.00 increase in the budget and they may be looking to put some of that funding out to the towns in the group for storm water management plans.

Next meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup> if we are on the ConCom Agenda. If not on the agenda, our meeting will be July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Meeting motioned to adjourn at 8:11 PM.**



**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of July 15, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**Amesbury Lakes & Waterways Commission**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Eric Bezanson, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph, Mark Sydlowski, Jay Knapp, Donna Gilberti, Rob Desmaris (DPW Director) and Peter Manor (Town Engineer). Guest in attendance was Tod Campbell (Lake Attitash Association).

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and accepted.

### **A. Engineers Report**

- a. Rob Desmarais discussed the agenda for the presentation of the Watershed Management Plan at the Conservation Committee meeting this coming Monday evening. There are many challenges coming, which include:
  - i. DEP requiring a comprehensive submittal w/engineering studies.
  - ii. Natural Heritage requiring full review fee of about \$8k.
  - iii. Challenges from abutters who might lose well water.
  - iv. Other protest for residents concerned with flooding or effects on wildlife.
  - v. DEP requiring a full abutter's notification.
- b. Greg Roy will generate a simple graphics presentation to accompany the presentation. Greg will present on the Watershed Management Plan and Rob will focus on items related to the Notice of Intent.
- c. The presentation will occur at the Amesbury Conservation Commission meeting on July 19, 2010.

### **B. Engineers Update**

- a. Ponds and lakes are down. Lake Attitash & Meadowbrook are low, Very little water coming from NH.
- b. The sinkhole will be fixed on a temporary basis. A long term repair will be more costly.
- c. Water use should be conservative at this point.

## **C. Lake Attitash Association legal appeal regarding Sargents Farm . \_Tod Campbell.**

- a. An appeal was served to the DEP.
- b. The DEP and EPA admit mistakes regarding the operation and regulatory enforcement of the composting facility.
- c. The DEP was able to go on site to sample the existing soil.
- d. 8900 tons of “Bone Slurry” from the Kraft Food Gelatin facility is shipped into the Sargent’s Farm site in Merrimac Ma on a yearly basis. The farm is adjacent to Lake Attitash, and run off is suspected to have contaminated the lake.

## **D. Lake Gardner Update: Bruce Georgian:**

- a. Samples have been taken from the pond by Bruce Georgian.
- b. Need more rain this summer to pull additional samples.
- c. Would like to have enough data by the end of the summer.

## **E. 8 Towns and a Bay: Bill Rudolph**

- a. Grants are potentially available through this organization.
- b. Looking for about 8-9 grants valued at approximately \$25,000.00 each.
- b. L&W may seek a few drains that are near the lower Powow River that may fall into this category.
- c. Ramp installed on lower Powow River for kayaks, canoes and other small water craft.
- d. Rob Desmarais would like additional ideas for the potential grant if it becomes a true possibility.
- e. Next meeting is August 19<sup>th</sup> (Thursday).

**Meeting motioned to adjourn at 7:55 PM.**





**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of August 19, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Eric Bezanson, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph and Donna Gilberti

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes of the July 15th meeting were approved and accepted.

**A. Engineers Report**

There was no engineering update because Rob Desmarais and Pete Manor were unable to attend.

**B. Drought Advisory**

A letter was written from the commission to Mayor Kezer expressing concern about the drought and recommending a voluntary watering restriction.

**C. Watershed and Waterway Mgmt Plan**

- a. The Watershed and Waterway Mgmt Plan was reviewed at the Conservation Commission meeting. There was a letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife regarding the Natural Heritage review of the plan. Due to the protected mussels on Lake Gardner the draw down can not occur without a mussel survey and other related requirements. Rob Desmarais wrote a letter to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (David Paulson) requesting that the draw down be accepted for Lake Attitash, Tuxbury and Meadowbrook Pond.
- b. The Conservation Commission is going to plan to review the updated Watershed and Waterway Mgmt Plan during their meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Lake Attitash Association Update:**

- a. There is no update on Sargent Farm.
- b. The town/LAA did not get the 604b grant.

- c. The LAA is trying to determine how to move forward with the algae and invasive weeds plaguing the lake.
- d. Unfortunately, the lake advisory for cyanobacteria has not been lifted since the levels were too high since the end of July.

### **E. Lake Gardner Update: Bruce Georgian:**

The 604b grant project is waiting for rain. They need this for storm water sampling. They are hoping to get data by the end of the summer.

### **F. 8 Towns and a Bay: Bill Rudolph**

- a. There is a meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> with Peter Pepin. The group has been on a summer break.
  - b. Pepper weed, an invasive coastal plant, has been found in the Marshes of Amesbury at the eastern end of Deer Island. The Mass Audobon is involved in this finding.
- B. Next meeting is September 16th (Thursday).

**Meeting motioned to adjourn at 7:30 PM.**

**September meeting did not have a quorum.**

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**Town of Amesbury  
Lakes and Waterways Commission  
Meeting of October 19, 2010  
Amesbury Health Center**

**MINUTES:**

Present: Greg Roy, Eric Bezanson, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph, Jay Knapp and Donna Gilberti

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The meeting began at 6:35 PM October 21, 2010. The minutes of the August 19th meeting were approved and accepted.

**A. Engineers Report**

There was no engineering update because Rob Desmarais and Pete Manor were unable to attend.

**B. Watershed and Waterway Mgmt Plan**

- a. Greg sent a letter to Natural Heritage regarding Lake Gardner
- b. Greg sent a letter to Natural Heritage regarding Tuxbury Pond and there was a discussion of what endangered species is of concern.
- c. Eric will contact Natural Heritage to identify species of concern and to determine requirements and a financial estimate for studies and recommendations on how to deal with endangered species

**C. Use of Town Funds**

- a. Cindy has been looking into use of Waterways improvement funds from boat excise and Con Comm filing fees and we have on going questions regarding use of this resource. Additional questions arose regarding Harbormaster effectiveness especially with regard to inland water bodies.
- b. We decided to invite the mayor to our December meeting to discuss the Harbormaster and our responsibilities and use of specified funds toward the required studies

**D. Lake Gardner Update: Bruce Georgian:**

No change in the status of this study. Lack of appropriate rain event has resulted in no further sampling. If not done by winter we're at risk of losing the study. Continuing to be prepared for sampling

## **E. 8 Towns and a Bay: Bill Rudolph**

- a. Discussion of upcoming seminars
- b. Shared news of successful Milfoil abatement I practices in ME

## **F. Con Comm : Greg**

Greg shared that the Con Comm is looking for help to draft guideline on docks and shorelines,

## **G. Lake Attitash Association Update: Cindy**

- a. Vegetation study by Aquatic Control, \$2,500 for Vegetation Management Plan
- b. Announcement of 319 Grant award CEI \$146K for storm drains, Rain gardens, catch basin maintenance, weed abatement

Next meeting is November 18th (Thursday).

**Meeting motioned to adjourn at 7:40 PM.**

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**November and December meetings did not have a quorum.**