



City of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of July 31, 2014
Location: Health Center Cafe

MEETING MINUTES:

Commission members present: Chairman Bruce Georgian, Joe Spencer, Alex Pooler, Laura Pooler, Tom Murphy, Jay Knapp
City Engineer: Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes:** The June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. **Engineer's Report (Rob):**
 - a. Everything is at normal pool.
 - b. **Watershed Mgt Plan update:**
 - i. Rob updated the management plan, and drafted a presentation. The presentation covers proposed changes that we discussed at the previous meeting, and potential issues associated with changes. The proposed changes also cover changing the target dates (the current target date of raising levels by March 1st is difficult when there is a heavy winter that can cause flooding later when melting occurs). We discussed each of the following options:
 1. Option one (in the current presentation; we may adjust the order) is to level off all water bodies to the same level. While this option would solve many problems for DPW, since this would probably require a very expensive wetlands study, it may be unlikely.
 2. Option two is to lower only Lake Attitash by 1.8 inches, while still maintaining flow to Meadowbrook. This would be helpful to DPW in managing the water level. Owners along the Lake in Amesbury and Merrimack may have differing views on this option, depending on their elevation and how their properties may be affected.
 3. Option three is to maintain the current levels.
 - ii. We will plan to invite members of the Lake Attitash Association to our next meeting to discuss the options, and then we will hold a public hearing in a larger forum for input before making our official recommendation. Rob would like to make the proposal by October or November so that changes can be made by January or February.
 - c. **Beach Management Grant:** The grant was awarded and the kickoff meeting was held for scope. Bruce will be Greenscapes' local contact. Greenscapes educational materials will be sent as part of the grant. Most of the grant is focused on Whitehall Road and fixing the drainage, and there is a part that will cover the beach as well. There may be a lot of granite available from Whittier Bridge that we could use for a retaining wall, etc. at the beach that could potentially solve the drainage problem.
 - d. **Beach Management Plan:** The plan is completed. Rob needs to turn into Notice of Intent to submit to the Conservation Commission; this will be done in the fall.
 - e. **Lower Millyard:** Rob indicated they are working on a TIF to try to get funding.
 - f. **Membership:** Tom Murphy will be attending a town meeting in order to be approved as an official member.
 - g. **Lake Gardner, Clarks Pond, Powow River Tuxbury Pond, Medowbrook Pond Pattens Pond, Park Pond, Merrimack River:** No reports

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is August 28, 2014.