

Town Status Report – September 9, 2019

Osgood Pond Update

- The Town received final funding approval from NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation for additional dredging of Osgood Pond on August 20, 2019. Work is to be completed by August 31, 2020 unless extended.
- The following required permits have been extended:
 1. NHDES Wetlands Permit extended to 3/30/24
 2. Army Corp of Engineers Permit extended to 8/1/22
- Our RFP was posted September 2 with a meeting for questions scheduled on September 13 and a bid due date of September 20. Site inspections by a certified wildlife biologist are part of the terms. Location for spoils is tentatively set for the gravel pit area in the Community Lands unless the BOS specifies another area and that would require an amendment to the RFP or contract award.
- Residents have expressed concern about a drawdown of the pond in autumn. Keep in mind that NH Fish & Game (NHFG) requires a two week notice for the drawdown and they are aware of our planning.
- NHFG will have concerns about the Banded Sunfish, Blanding's Turtles, Hognose Snakes and invasive plants like Purple Loosestrife. We have to work around hatching season (now) and winter hibernation schedules.
- We have asked NHFG to provide information and guidance on the timing of operations, specifically the draw down, silt fence installation and vegetation removal, along with invasive species. Generally, silt fence as a barrier preventing species from entering the site, should be installed around mid-September to mid-October. The timing challenge as I see it provides the following options:
 1. Maintain the water level as late in fall as possible and then lower the pond, dry out the work area and install silt fence. Winter excavation is possible.
 2. Wait until spring after all species have emerged from hibernation to drawdown the pond, dry out the work area and install silt fence. We then have to hope for a dry spring and early summer to complete the work on time or request an extension.
- Keep in mind that a resident is challenging the state grant funding award, but the status of that is not clear.

Main Fire Station Upgrade – Voters approved Warrant Article 3 in March 2018 authorizing expenditure of \$3,864,300 for this upgrade. Chief Flaherty has done a very good job monitoring the project and expenses – on time & on budget. Total expenditures to date are \$3,813,000 with an additional \$20,000 due the general contractor putting us at \$3,833,000. The balance of \$31,000 will be used to furnish the bunk rooms and install additional data connections and fiber optics. The bond for the full amount of the warrant article was placed on June 24, 2019.