DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
 Meeting Location: Cafeteria, McConnell Center, Dover NH  
 Meeting Date: 1/24/2012  
 Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 5:30PM

Members Present: Rick Callaghan, Suzanne Ellis, Marty Wilson, , Bob Therrien, Harvey Turner  
 Guests Present: Dean Peschel (City Dover), Tom Fargo (NH DES), Sally Soule (NH DES), Jeffrey King (NH Fish & Game)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** approved, all in favor.3. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2011 MEETING MINUTES** delayed to next meeting due to late publication.4. **WATER LEVEL:**

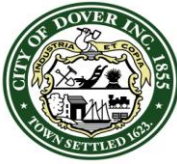
- a. **EMERY AND GARRETT REPORT ON PUMPING THAT ENDED 12/24/2011** Dean discussed the report and stated that we have received approval for reestablishing the well with proposed limits on water level of 189-182'. (182' = historic low). The general **operating range** should be 5' which means 184-189 or 190'. The application for the second well (new well) has been started by Emery & Garrett. The current well pumps 408 gal/min. The new well is expected to pump 200gal/min.

**History:** From Spring into Fall the pumping went on but had stopped briefly due to milfoil. There was an extension to operate after cleanup to see how far the well would draw the pond down this year. It got to about 186' which was projected.

**DES** is reviewing application for the 2<sup>nd</sup> well. The pumping can be varied according to rain or drought conditions. Approval gives 4 years to activate and tie in. If we don't act, we have to start over again.

- b. **FISH AND GAME BOAT LAUNCH** Jeff King inquired as to the seasonal water line at 185' and whether that level is planned to be maintained. The goal per Dean is not to allow it to go above 190, e.g. we may start the pumping in winter to prevent flooding with the spring melt. Jeff expressed a concern by the Department of Fish & Game that at 184-185 the ramp is essentially out of the water. There are no plans to extend the ramp at this time. If it did happen it would not be made of concrete and might take 3-4 years to happen. To retrofit, the cost would be \$25-50K for concrete. Concern #2 is that when you get down too low there is a constriction between shorelines beyond the ramp going out into the pond and it may get too low for boat passage. The ramp was built with federal monies which would need to be reimbursed if the ramp becomes unusable.

Rick asked if the pond continued to drop at the projected rate. Dean said, yes it did. Dean stressed that the whole purpose is to control the pond, not to abuse the pond for the sake of city water supply, which is adequate for the city as it is. Harvey commented that it would be nice to see what the coming spring/summer yields without pumping.

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Harvey asked if Somersworth mentioned the restoration of the pond walkways. No per Dean.

Rick told Jeff about the Friends of Willand Pond group who may be interested in the future of the pond if the ramp is disabled or otherwise changes the availability of the recreation area.

Jeff noted that last winter when the ice heaved the ramp it was going to be fixed, but the (fish) stocking truck backed over it and fixed it. Tom asked if there was a cost sharing if that might facilitate getting the ramp improved. It is not a priority for Fish & Game at this time according to Jeff (they have many priorities already established) but it might happen in the future.

Jeff will get feedback from Fish and Game and write the committee a letter.

Dean stated that pumping might not start for 3 years for the purpose of water supply as the pipe had to be laid and the treatment plant needed connection etc.

**c. RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL** Rick asked if 184-189' may be the recommended water level. The CIP does not include a range. Both wells will be needed in high water for adequate pumping. It was decided to change the recommendation to 184-189'. Bob Therrien motioned to accept, Norma Willard seconded the motion, all were in favor pending more information from Fish & Game who may have concerns about the impact of lower water on certain species of fish and wildlife. Rick asked Jeff if he had something concrete in the way of information about this before the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of next month (our next Ad Hoc meeting), it would help to expedite the issue.

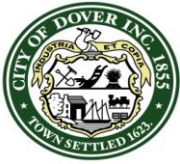
Per Dean, rainfall normally picks up in September but in this year there was little snow. Our goal is to allow a level no greater than 189' to be decided as we see fit. We will try to get to 188' but no less than 186'.

There is a map of Willand Pond on the Fish & Game website which shows the ramp and water levels pertaining to it.

**d. MILL FOIL** Rick sent an email to Amy Smagula who wanted to continue milfoil surveillance.

(Aside: Rick would like Dean's reports in order to make a decision – he'd like to get a water level report to address the concerns of those affected people – but would not like to say how to accomplish that. We want to control the level not how to get there. )

Water level moved to the next meeting after letter from Fish and Game.



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**6. FRIENDS OF WILLAND POND UPDATE:** Friends is helping a company to do a hockey tournament which is proposed to happen this weekend (January 27-29). With the current weather pattern it may not happen. Fish & Game and the Marine Patrol were contacted for their concerns about this event.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS (NEW OR OLD)** There was no other business at this time.

**8. NEXT MEETING (POTENTIALLY 2/28/2012)**

**9. ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn was made by Marty Wilson, seconded by Bob Therrien. All in favor. 6:52pm