

Heath Conservation Commission Draft Meeting Minutes  
Nov. 7, 7:00PM  
Heath Municipal Building

Members Present: Brian DeVriese, Pam Porter, Heather Row, Sue Draxler

Others present: Bill Latrell, HCC Consultant, Visitors: Maureen Lattrell, Mike Braman, David Boucher, Nick Anzouni

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

1. We reviewed and discussed the recent drawdown at Papoose Lake. There was an accidental malfunction of the gate during a regular test in which the Pond dam was jammed by sticks and ran for several hours. It was supposed to be open for no more than an hour. Downstream levels were seriously elevated creating a potential hazard. The purpose of the discussion was to make a plan to minimize the chance of future accidents and their impacts.
  - a. Chair of the Mohawk Estates Association, Jenny Hamilton was aware of the issue and although she was not able to attend the meeting, she sent an email and members David Boucher and Mike Braman to represent the Association. Consultant Bill Lattrell commended the Association on its quick response to the problem
  - b. Mike and Dave said that the gates were to be tested twice a year, each time requiring the dam gates to be open for not more than one hour. The next test will be in the spring.
    - i. Bill Latrell recommended that prior to the test, the water level in the lower pond dam should be lowered by removing one board at a time. Removal of more than one board may not be needed, he said.
    - ii. Also, prior to routine tests, notice will be given of their time and date to the Town of Heath and the Town of Colrain. HCC will identify the appropriate person, with contact info, and inform the Association as to whom this should be. **[Following the meeting contact was made with the Town of Colrain. Notice should be given to Colrain's Town Administrator at 413 624-3454]**
    - iii. It was agreed that a screen would be installed to prevent debris from jamming the dams and that whoever is overseeing the test will not leave the dams unattended during the drawdown. Further, those attending will come equipped with rakes and pruners, etc. in case they are needed.
    - iv. It was stated that Jim Gagne, the Association's Vice Chair, should be the contact person if there are any issues. Jim's number is 413 446-5223. Mike will ask Jenny if there is any other number available for him.
    - v. A request was made that Jenny Hamilton be provided with a copy of these meeting minutes.
  - c. On a related matter, Consultant Bill Lattrell recommended that the Association's consultant prepare to close out the work that is now complete on the upper dam. A Certificate Compliance is needed. A Notice Of Intent can then be filed for work to be

done on the main dam. Mohawk Reps were informed that Mohawk Estates Association Chair will need to sign all applications.

2. Review of minutes of past meetings will be delayed. Minutes will be sent out for members to review before they are included on a future meeting agenda.
3. Items that could not be reasonably anticipated:
  - a. Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni joint the meeting to discuss the new fire hydrant that is to be installed at the lower pond at Mohawk Estates. A site visit has been conducted and a Limited Notice of Intent needs to be filed. Nick will file out the application and then review it with Bill Lattrell before submitting it. A suggestion was made that Nick visit the site to insure it offers adequate water depth. Chief was informed about the Three weeks' notice required for holding a hearing and the ten day waiting period that must follow it before work can begin.
  - b. A second hydrant on the causeway at the Estates is in need of repair. Chief Anzuoni said he would investigate.
  - c. Following a brief discussion of a planned extension of the Deerfield River to Hoosic River Trail which the Recreation Committee is working on and that will pass through Trowbridge land, it was decided that a site visit should be made to the Beaver Pond on the existing portion of the trail to determine whether there is a wet lands violation and if so, how it might be addressed. The consultant is concerned that the town may not have adequate information about its liability for wet lands violations related to the extension of the trail. HCC Brian DeVriese will request a meeting with the Select Board to review the town's responsibilities and discuss recommendations for addressing them.
  - d. It was agreed that we would post the site visit to the Beaver Pond and take the occasion as an opportunity for some informal for HCC members on hydric soils and winter plant identification.
  - e. Concern was expressed about the Danek gravel mining operation adjacent to the Municipal Building's septic field. There may be other concerns. HCC Chair and Consultant will follow up.
4. Business being complete, Heather Row moved the meeting adjourn. Pam Porter seconded the motion. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:33.