

**SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF NORTH EAST
JANUARY 28, 2014**

Members Present:

Supervisor John Merwin
Councilman James Campbell
Councilman Ralph Fedele
Councilman George Kaye

Members Absent:

Councilman Steven Merwin

Linda Cooper, Gabriella Cebadc-Mora, Chris Rickard and Edwina Belding of the New York State Offices of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Environmental Management Bureau made a presentation to the Board regarding the environmental and water quality issues at Rudd Pond.

The discussion centered around what had been done in the recent past and possible action steps for the future.

Mr. Chris Rickard the Park Manager informed the Board that he has been residing at Rudd Pond for a year. He thanked the Town of North East for their assistance in the weed harvesting control.

Two handbooks were provided to the Board. One was titled "Assessment of Swimming and Boat Launch Areas Rudd Pond Recreational Area Taconic State Park " the other "Rudd Pond Water Quality Report 2013 Addendum".

Ms. Cebadc-Mora proceeded with a slide show that depicted installation and removal of benthic barriers, weed harvesting, and other projects at Rudd Pond. Ms. Cebadc-Mora also discussed the next steps to be taken. She discussed re-applying for benthic barriers permit. The next steps to be taken are the grass carp being put in the water to eat the invasive plants, and the purchase of a smaller weed harvester and beaver control.

James Savikeas asked about the PH level of the water and the roll of geese in the area. Ms. Cebadc-Mora said that the PH level is just above the DEC standards, and that the nesting pair of geese are no longer in the park.

Ms. Christine Bates asked about the cost of the harvester being \$150,000.00. Ms. Cebadc-Mora replied that grants from New York could amount to \$40,000.00 and Ms. Cooper said money could be put aside or more grant funding could be applied for.

Councilman Kaye asked what the anticipated level of need would be from our Highway Department? Mr. Rickard responded that two months and four men would be needed to help with the harvest.

John Scutteri asked if a smaller harvester would be necessary? The answer was yes.

Mr. David Shufelt asked if The Watershed Project would impact the Rudd Pond Project. Ms. Cooper said that there was no contact with the Watershed and nothing is going on or proposed at Rudd Pond for the Water Shed Center.

David Sherman questioned the effect on the carp fish population. Ms. Belding responded that carp fish stock will be maintained.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Owens
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: February 19, 2014