

Moeckel Pond Village District

In the Town of Windham, NH

Annual Meeting: April 8, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 1:14pm.

Present:

Commissioners Stephanie Young, Tom O'Brien, and Dan Masse

Moderator Neil Fallon, Auditor Norm Young, Treasurer Bruce Moeckel, and Clerk Kim Masse

Voting residents (apart from aforementioned parties, and in alphabetical order, as recoded by the supervisors of the checklist):

Kevin Brown, Diana Fallon, Stuart Mayo, James Murphy, Judith Murphy, and Sandra Thomas.

Windham Supervisors of the Checklist: Eileen Mashimo and David Bates

The moderator read **Article I:**

ARTICLE 1: To choose in the manner provided by law, the following Village District officers:

Commissioner – 3-year term

Auditor – 1-year term

Neil explained that Dan Masse and Norm Young are up for reelection as Commissioner and Auditor, respectively. The motion was made to reelect this slate of officers. The motion was seconded. The article passed unanimously.

The moderator read **Article II:**

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1250 for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Majority Vote Required).

Commissioner Dan Masse explained that these are the numbers agreed to upon at this year's Annual Budget Meeting. This is the typical amount used for legal fees and insurance. Our insurance is currently tacked onto the Friends of Moeckel Pond (FOMP), but we are still collecting and saving this money, which will be used for upcoming legal fees.

Treasurer Bruce Moeckel updated that we have \$3,648 in our general operating account and \$5,201 in capital reserve. This is the first year we haven't had to run a deficit, which normally happens because the town pays us back at the end of the year.

The motion was made to pass this article. The motion was seconded. The article passed unanimously.

The moderator read **Article III**:

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$850) to be added to the Moeckel Pond Dam Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required).

The motion was made to pass this article. The motion was seconded. The article passed unanimously.

The moderator read **Article IV**:

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Village District will vote to authorize the District Commissioners to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement by and among the Moeckel Pond Village District, Friends of Moeckel Pond, Town of Windham, Town of Pelham, and Christopher and April Vavra, relating to the dam associated with the former Moeckel Pond, now known as the Marston-Finn Conservation Dam, in which the Moeckel Pond Village District agrees that at the completion of dam reconstruction as provided for in the state permit, it shall accept a conveyance to it of all rights of Friends in and to the premises it owns, and all easement rights which benefit it for no or nominal consideration, and that the District further agrees that it will accept primary responsibility for the future maintenance and repair of the Marston-Finn Conservation Dam in perpetuity following its reconstruction, and to further authorize the District Commissioners to enter into any necessary agreements with the Friends of Moeckel Pond, Town of Windham, Town of Pelham, and other related land owners, to carry out this authorization.

Dan Masse offered some more insight. This is the third time we've had an article like this on the warrant because any time the wording on an article is changed we have to vote on it again. Basically, this means that MPVD will take the dam for free and maintain it with our funds we have raised. The Vavra party is referenced because there is an easement into their land for dam maintenance and construction, which the village district will own. The motion was made to pass this article. The motion was seconded. The article passed unanimously.

A motion was made to end and accepted to close the annual meeting at 1:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kimberly Masse
Moeckel Pond Village District Clerk
20 Patricia St
Windham, NH 03087

End of official meeting minutes

Update discussion with the Friends of Moeckel Pond following the official Moeckel Pond Village District Annual Meeting follows:

Following the official meeting Diana Fallon and Norm Young shared news from the Friends of Moeckel Pond:

We are in good shape for possibly starting dam construction in July of this summer, with a worst-case scenario of starting the construction in July 2019.

This good news is due to the following:

- In January the Windham Conservation Commission was awarded a state water protection grant, from which they are earmarking \$108K for Friends of Moeckel Pond.

- (See Letter from the National Park Service)

By September of this year, we should have the rest of our needed money from a National Parks Services grant. Concerning the grant from the NPS, we were going to apply 18 months ago but there were some concerns. Now we are slated number one in the second round so that means as long as the federal parks service budget is passed, we should expect to receive full funding in September. If we receive this money, we will have all of the money needed to complete the dam. This amount is for roughly \$150K.

Norm: Will we build this summer? We should get the notification in September and if we get the funding, this means we will get that money eventually, but maybe not all of it in September. So with that knowledge, we could get a bridge loan with a bank or the contractor. Jim Deweever (with construction company) is holding a spot for us this year and next year. We have all the permits and should have all the money by Sept. Hopefully we'll have construction starting this August. Worst case, next July, since we cannot start earlier in the year due to water flow and trees that have bats in them (a federal Army Corp of Engineers rule).

There is also concern about paying for extra items after the dam is constructed, such as parking areas, accessibility, signage, launch, docks, etc. There are basic provisions for those included in the cost of building the dam, but we could use tax credits to help with that funding as well. It was explained that we will have two staging areas of construction: one on each side of dam – from Gordon Rd (Pelham) and Windham side by Vavra property.

An explanation of tax credits: Site visit coming up in April for potential 300K tax credit options. If we get, say 200K, we have to sell 280K of tax credits to local businesses. We get 75% back of their taxes that they would have otherwise just paid to the federal government. The money is not available until 2019. If we do not get this, this will not prevent us from building the dam, but it would simply help us with the extra items (see above) surrounding the dam. Tax credits are also a possible way to fund the dam IF our NPS grant does not come through in September.

Once we have all of the money and start construction, we can ask a UNH limnologist, who studies lakes and ponds, to see what we plants we expect to come back and/or

anything we can do to help with pond life and vegetation. A question was asked as to whether we need to clean up any of our trees that have fallen into the pond. It was suggested that clearing them before possible construction this July, would be a good idea. This is so large logs are not floating into the pond and dam once water returns.

Current FOMP fundraising endeavors: Chasers lounge in Salem, NH is making us a good deal of money. It's located where Grand China restaurant used to be next to the newer Mary Ann's Diner location. We pay \$500 up front for that night, then receive 35% of the take from the night. We have 9 night this year. In 2017 at the first night, we got \$3,400, followed by another night of \$4,200. They made \$8,000 in one night in March! Check FOMP Facebook page for our July dates. Possibly July 8-14?

The village district is very excited about this year and the very real possibility of having water back in the pond by the end of this year. We are very grateful to the Friends of Moeckel Pond for their outstanding work and continued efforts in restoring Moeckel Pond.