

# SKATING POND COMMITTEE

## 12-6-2005 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Dave Monroe, Chairman; Marc Andrews, Treasurer; and Simone Howe, Acting Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Dave Monroe @ 7:10 p.m. in the Durham Public Library.

Dave Monroe briefly reviewed some of the activities of the previous weekend at the skating pond as follows:

Members of the Skating Pond Committee and others assembled at the skating pond on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>; and for much of the day, worked on-site to further prepare the site for its intended activity. Dave Monroe, Don Guenther, Marc Andrews, Tim Larkin, Steve DeVecchio, and Jonathan and Kyle Monroe were in attendance, and worked very hard; Mr. George Zeeb stopped by to check on the progress; Ms. Sue VanDerzee came by and graciously provided us with coverage, the details of which ultimately could be later viewed in the Town Times; and other Durham Townspeople stopped by to observe and ask questions about the pond, and the day's event.

At the end of the day, all the invasive vegetation partially submerged/ submerged in roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the pond itself was cut (Dave and Don were the brave individuals who could be observed in the pond with waders and trimmers, until the point where the water level was higher than their waders); all the invasive vegetation on the north and south banks of the pond were cut (employing a scythe, an implement of distinct familiarity in historic Durham); the grass at the top easterly side of the pond was trimmed; and much of the debris, such as bottles and cans and trash were collected and removed. Attendees even had time to observe a Little Blue Heron who came from the southern wetlands near the skating pond later in the day, then walked on the south berm of the pond, then continued on what remains of the western berm, and then proceeded on into the floodplain of Allyn Brook.

Dave continued to say that he had submitted the details of the remaining bids for the skating pond berm repair to the Board of Selectmen at the previous Monday meeting; and that the particulars of the recommendations were unanimously accepted and approved by the Board. Activity is slated to begin as soon as the contractors can do so. (Northford Construction will make the berm repair; and Parmalee Electric will repair/ modify the lighting.)

Dave added that the grant funds have been received from the State of Connecticut DEP; and are in the Durham Town coffers.

Members in attendance approved recommendation to pay Jacobsen Engineering (Brian Curtis' extensive services) for their work regarding the skating pond area imprint and related surveys/ maps.

Recommendation, by discussion of the group, was made to contact CERMA regarding proper signage for the skating pond; since "Skate at your own risk" is probably no longer adequate for legal purposes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at the Durham Public Library. As always, the public is invited to attend.