April 29, 2014
Please sign in and get a name tag.
Join the Corporation: Dues are taxdeductible: \$25/ individual,\$40/family, \$100 sustaining.

Make an Additional Donation: \$250 Is the Suggested Amount.

Be sure we have your e-mail address so you can get news about Foster's Pond.

Image MassGIS, Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOEA © 2006 Sanborn

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This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Foster's Pond Corporation.

Before we start the meeting, here's a little Foster's Pond history.



Foster's Pond . . .

Named for Andrew Foster, the 22nd man to settle in Andover.

He died in 1685 at the age of 106, "leaving to my deare and loving wife Ann Foster, the use and sole liberty of living in that end of my house I now live in."

Ann did not live happily ever after.



Ann Foster . . .

Was accused of witchcraft during the Salem witch trials in 1692-93.

Aged and infirm, Ann (along with her daughter and granddaughter) were picked out of a line-up by several girls from Salem. Mercilessly badgered by white-wigged magistrates in the Salem court, she finally confessed that she had caused Goodwife Ballard's illness, bewitched John Lovejoy's hogs, and rode to covens on a broomstick.

After 21 weeks in a tiny, hot cell, she died in prison. Her son Abraham paid the jailer 2 pounds, 10 shillings to retrieve her body.



Although this map is more art than survey, it captures the original shape of Foster's Pond, shortly after Ann died in prison. That "A. Foster" closest to Foster's Pond is Abraham, the son of Andrew and Ann.



Jim Batchelder, Andover Historical Soc.



A plan of the Soren of An dower taken by the Subscriber a bommittee appointed by the Inhabitants of Said Cover for that purpose agreed to the referer of the general Court of function to one Strongand The distance from the North Meeting house in said Form to Worten 26 miles From the South it. to de 22/2 de 22/2 de 19 A. The great pond 15% deen. 13. Slaggets pond 220 deen G. Sotten pond 30 deer 13 Marts front sy the Min - E. Bever dam front & The Mur S. Aflebuis front & dun N. 13 Pharothin two 3 Toos in Wealth Protracted by a Seal of two Hundred sods to an Inch John Farmuns Joshua Wellson Committee Itadiah Soll Andover June ings John Franning Surveyors

"Fosters pond 50 acres"

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This formal survey shows the original configuration of Foster's Pond, long before the dam was built. The blue arrow has been digitally inserted to highlight the speck of a Pond.



In 1830, with construction of the Foster's Pond Dam still two decades in the future, Foster's Pond looked pretty much unchanged from its shape on that 1795 map in the previous slide.



The Foster's Pond Dam, built in the early 1850's, changed the size and shape of the Pond, but the process was slow. Nearly 20 years after the dam was constructed, the Pond bore little resemblance to today's appearance.





Today's "flying duck" shape (note the FPC logo in the lower right) took decades to emerge. More than 30 years after the dam was built, the Pond was still growing slowly. Ultimately, the Pond would more than double in size.





1905?

Postcards with local scenes became a fad in the early 1900s. There was an entire series of Foster's Pond photos, including this view from the dam. Note the lone house, one of the summer "camps" that were starting to populate the Pond as it grew in expanse and depth.

Although it's hard to tell for sure, that house seems to be on Rock Island.



Published by W. A. Allen, Ph.G.

View from Dam, Foster Pond, Andover, Mass.

Courtesy of Dave Dargie

The Foster's Pond Dam went through a number of configurations. Here, water pours over a wooden spillway. Gates under the spillway could be opened to increase the flow to downstream mills in Ballardvale.

The wooden spillway was removed in 1916 and the area under it filled with concrete.



Photo courtesy Andover Historical Society



The earliest government inspection of the dam, in 1913, found it to be in "very bad" condition, with the timber spillway "all going to pieces."

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C

The entry in the lower right-hand corner, updated in 1916, notes that the rotting timbers had been replaced by concrete. The inspector wrote down the owner's name (Homer Foster), spelling it the way he must have heard it pronounced: "Homma Foster".

UN 141926 COUNTY OF ESSEX. MASSACHUSETTS 1913 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT 0/02-5-1 D.// R. S. P. Inspection of Dams, Reservoirs, and Stand Pipes s Neg. Nos. 1137-Inspector C. C. Barkers. Date Mor. 7, 1913 1916 *Classification a City or Town andover Location Mottherly end of Fosters Fond on the Wattlesnake Hill Road. Showcheen Fire at Ballandun lat and à Owner Under joint control of Mill runnen on the Use Storage & houter for porter on include such de this as cores, cut off walk paving codding class of marony, kind of comment, (nat or port) etc. Material and Type Entt, fill dam with a dry wibble wall on the down stream side + cloped on the up stream side Elevations in feet : above (+) or below (-) full pond or reservoir level. (Cross out what does not apply.) For Res. or S. P. 115 Top width in ft. 10 Pond area 125+ Que Area of watershed 24+ eq.m For Res. or S. P. Inside dimensions 12'x5 Length of overflow or spillway. Outlet pipes (size and natur Stand pipe, thiskness at base Foundation and details of construction. Constructed by and date Recent repairs and date. 7002 Evidence of leakage of great deal of leakage on the bottom (vert Condition Very bad lower wall is falling down ground the P. when paint Topography of country below down swampy land below Jo Controval Nature, extent, proximity, etc. of buildings, roads or other property in danger if failure should occur Only damage would be done to the road Plans and data secured or available Use separate sheet for skeiches it accessary. Max depth & head on gate is 10 ft dam is 10 ft high Notes, sketches, sections, etc. The spillway a overflow is about 10 fr wide is on top of the dam is made of timber this bad condition all going to greeces. The outlet gate is 10 ft. high + 5 ft. wide & is well-braced The timber spillerandan Leans replaced with concrete gate. earth teen filledin 4 9,0 t fatore. Homma Fostin' = dry ubbly 10 timber essellivay mr. 920x 4.19/6 Q.C. very flat slone. Fair Con. nour. Classify as to probable damage in case of failure. I slight. 2 moderate. I serious. oven



Throughout the early 1900s, the community of summer residents continued to expand, and the number of uninsulated summer "camps", without electricity, continued to grow. They relied on outhouses for sanitation, and the only access was unpaved roads crudely carved through the woods.

These photos are undated. Frame construction, clapboards, and milled lumber became the materials of choice as newer camps were built.

In 1927, the community held a clambake. 74 people attended.



Courtesy of Dave Dargie

Some of the camps were much more elaborate. The Davis camps, on what became known as the Main Pond, included a house on a small island reached by a foot bridge.

The land is now part of the Foster's Pond Reservation, and the bridge has been restored.

The camp itself has long since disappeared.



Photo courtesy Andover Historical Society and Judy Goonyep



1939?

Crockett's store, on the shore of the Pond a stone's throw from the dam, was the kind of place parents told their kids to stay away from.

Alcohol was sold under the counter, even though deeds for many of the camps around the Pond prohibited the use or storage of "intoxicating liquors."

Despite (or maybe because of) parental warnings, kids frequented the store to buy candy.





The Foster's Pond Corporation was founded on October 30, 1939.

Of the 16 signers of the Articles of Organization, only 2 lived on the Pond; the others owned "camps" but lived elsewhere.

The new corporation gave its office address as "Rock Island, Foster's Pond." That's where the first president, Andrew Robinson, owned a camp.

In 2003, a neighborhood clean-up effort removed the house, which was by then derelict.



1939



In 2005, the community reshaped the FPC for the 21st Century, reorganizing it as a tax-exempt nonprofit open to everyone who values the Pond as one of Andover's greatest environmental resources.

The Articles of Organization were rewritten to embrace the broader aims of the organization.

The purpose of the corporation is to engage in the following activities: to preserve, protect and enhance the waters and the environment of Foster's Pond, a Great Pond located in the Town of Andover; to promote the conservation, protection, and wise management of natural resources, including land and water resources, and the prevention of environmental pollution in the Foster's Pond watershed; to establish and promote programs of public information, education and scientific research relating to the preservation and protection of the natural environment in the vicinity of Foster's Pond; to encourage similar efforts by other organizations, individuals, public agencies, and public officials; to own, operate, repair and maintain the dam regulating the flow of water from Foster's Pond, for the general benefit, improvement and beautification of the Pond and its environment; to acquire, hold, and manage land or rights in land for conservation purposes and to encourage and assist other organizations and public agencies to do the same within the Foster's Pond watershed; to promote and protect a safe and congenial living and recreational environment for residents and the general public; to encourage responsible public use of the Pond's recreational resources; and to engage in related charitable, educational and scientific activities not inconsistent with requirements applicable to non-profit corporations organized under

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 180 and to exempt organizations under

Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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The dam enlarged the Pond from 50 acres to about 120.

Much of the increased water area is only a foot or two deep. The deepest point in the Main Pond is about 13 feet; the average depth of the Pond is under 7 feet.

Nutrient- rich sediments throughout the expanded Pond nourish weeds and algae which aggravate the lake management challenges we face today.

The Foster's Pond Corporation is the only organization whose mission it is to respond to these challenges.

Before and after the dam





Foster's Pond Today



The FPC, AVIS, Andover and Wilmington protect 400 acres around the Pond

Our 2013 Contributors Thank you for helping preserve Foster's Pond for future generations!

Andover St (Wilmington)/Woburn St (Andover)/Nicoll Dr Matthew Brier & Emily Dulude Daniel & Arlene Friel

Azalea Dr/Clover Cir/County Rd/Donna Rd/Fern Rd/Morningside Dr/Sleepy Hollow Lane/Snowberry Rd

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