Fosters Pond Corporation: Weed Committee Minutes
January 13, 2003

The Weed Committee has met two times since our last Fosters Pond Corporation meeting in September 2003.

1St Meeting: October 2003

Discussion Topics:

- Launching of Fosters Pond Watershed Survey, according to the MA Lake/Watershed Stewardship Program
- Weed Assessment according to the MA WeedWatchers Program
- Fosters Pond In-Lake Geochemical Assessment Program
- Feasibility Study of Lake Restoration Alternatives
    - Harvesting
    - Winter Draw Down
    - Herbicide Treatments
    - Dredging
    - Grass Carp
- Assessment of historical and current lake restoration practices in New England

2nd Meeting: December 2003

Discussion Topic:

- Presentation of weed control alternatives by Gerry Smith of Aquatic Control Technology, (ACT) Incorporated. ACT has been the provider of the weed harvester machine for Fosters Pond for many years.

ABOUT ACT:
Since 1976, Aquatic Control Technology has provided innovative and effective solutions to difficult water management problems. ACT was instrumental in bringing integrated aquatic management to the Northeast. Their philosophy is to tailor each lake program to enhance and preserve the unique features and uses of the water body. ACT has successfully completed over 1000 management programs on ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Projects range in scope from small, private ponds to projects on large, recreational and multiple use lakes. Several of their projects have received the North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) prestigious Technical Merit Award or have been designated as USEPA Clean Lakes Success Stories. Their full-time staff of professionals offer a unique blend of applied expertise required to design, permit and implement projects in today's complex regulatory environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACT:

Definites:

1. Plant ID and Mapping
   Gerry reinforced the point that our fist step must be an assessment of our pond's vegetation. Will perform plant ID along 3 transects to define exact species of weeds present in specific areas of the pond. Results will be used to make the most appropriate choice on their controlled management. Cost ($1,250)

Possibilities:

2. Watershed Survey
   Perform analysis of the size of the watershed with specific input and outputs of water.

3. Water Quality Analysis
   Recommends 3 locations for basic water quality parameters, phosphates, nitrates, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, etc.
   Cost ($900)

The above are preliminary steps to provide information necessary to document the existing biological and water quality condition of the lake. ACT uses this type of information to develop a Biological Survey Report and proposed management program. The baseline Biological Survey is typically a required first step and is strongly recommended to get a management /restoration program developed and underway. If requested, specific recommendations for a lake management program would be presented.

Documented identification of the condition of the lake would be necessary to give us the basis to approach local and state programs for permitting issues and possible financial support for our restoration.

Information Regarding Sonar:

- Works by limiting yellow pigment and plants cannot grow.
- Most native plants are not susceptible to Sonar
- Aside from the Conservation Commission and Board Of Health issues, Town should be involved - as they are property owners
- License = $150, Conservation Commission filing for *Notice Of Intent* = $1,500
- 3 years of control

- Apply in May-June time period
- Approximately 40K for application
- Apply to concentration of 15-20 ppb for 45-60 days

NOTE: On our website there is a chart, provided by Smith/ACT that lists methods of weed control, effectiveness and the approximate costs associated with each operation.