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## Gray's Mill: Email Correspondence Regarding Gray's Mill Pond Restoration, January 2002 - November 2006

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From: "Joel @ Compass Canoe"  
To: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
Subject: Re: Millpond  
Date: Mon, 21 Jan 2002 17:35:01 -0500

Pete,

Thanks for your nice email. Lunch was a lot of fun and very informative at the same time. We will do it again.

I spoke to David Borden, Department of Natural Resources, State of RI who said your best bet might be to contact Jan Retisma, Director of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908. She might be enthusiastic if she were aware of the following:

The Pond is the final destination for all the released trout the state lets go each Spring. It is also an important pond for the mallards and black ducks that are native to the area. It would be a great monitoring pond for wood duck boxes which could be erected once the pond is cleaned up. I am not sure whether the pond has a fish ladder alongside the dam, but if so, the pond needs to be cleaned to provide a healthy breeding environment for the fish.

Because the state line runs through the pond, the clean-up could become a "showcase" joint venture between the two states, each getting a lot of positive publicity.

By going directly to her, the permitting process including Wetlands Determination, Sediment Sample findings, might be circumvented and the state could take on the project themselves.

Currently, there does not seem to be any legislation for the maintenance and renourishment of existing state waterways (so I am told) so this project might create proper legislation to that effect. This is where contacting our state legislators might come in.

Google.com is a great search engine. By going to "State of RI-General Assembly, you can get a list of all the Representatives and Senators. Joan Quick (my neighbor on Mullin Hill Road) is a House Representative and has been for 12 years. Bill Enos is our District 94 Senator and has been for 15 years. They are both good people and should be able to help.

Let me know if I can help.

Best regards Joel

From: "Scott P. Rabideau"  
Sent: 12/22/2004 04:28 PM  
To: Ralph Guild  
Subject: Fw: Gray's Mill Pond

Hi Ralph,

As per your request, the following is a list of the final requirements for the Gray Mill's Pond habitat restoration. As an aside, I met with Terry Walsh, DEM Water Quality Biologist on December 14th. We have finalized the dredge material disposal requirements.

The remaining issues are:

- 1) RI DEM Office of Water Resources - Response to public notice (anticipated 3/05);
- 2) RI DEM Office of Water Resources - Final permit decision (anticipated 5/05);
- 3) EMA Division of Wetlands / Waterways - Water quality permit decision (anticipated 5/05);
- 4) US Army Corps of Engineers - Issuance of Programmatic General Permit (anticipated 5/05).

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. I hope you have a happy holiday season.

Warmest regards,

Scott P. Rabideau  
Natural Resource Services, Inc.

Hi Pete,

I think it's a good idea to speak with the fish commissioner regarding the old stone ladder. I was thinking more of the aesthetic of the old structure than the functionality. You do not see many of the stone fish ladders on these old dams.

I was talking about the stone wall along Adamsville Road. It would not be too difficult for Mr. Lemonde to put the collapsed section back. Also, you can see the remenant wall along the Longfield property. Again, if you want it restored upon project completion he can easily do that.

If look closely, you will see some big rocks on the pond bottom. We are obviously not going to remove them from the site. My thought was to simply line the rear shoreline. They would be submerged most of the time, with partial exposure during the summer. It would also help to keep that shoreline from eroding. We can discuss the matter once he starts digging.

I spoke with Lemonde last Thursday. He is supposed be on-site working by the end of this week. See you then.

Scott Rabideau

----- Original Message ----- From: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
To: <scott@nrswetlands.com>  
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2006 7:25 PM  
Subject: The Pond!

Thanks for the copy of your letter to Ralph dated 9/14.

As for rebuilding the fish ladder we need to check with Russ Hart, fish commissioner. I think I remembering him telling me it was not old and never worked. It would be great if we could come up with a good one using those stones that did work..

What stone walls are you referring too that need to be rebuilt and why do you think that the outer banks need to be lined with stone??

Looking forward to seeing the first equipment.

Pete

--

Anne W. Baker  
29 Drift Rd.  
Westport, MA 02790  
508 636 3272  
To: RalphG  
From: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
Subject: Did you get the photos.  
Cc:  
Bcc:

So-o-o are you excited???

It is going really well. Don, the contractor, discovered that the ground under the muck is quite solid so doesn't think he will have to build more platforms to dig from. Rain last night so now he has pumps working to clear the area of water where he is digging.

You better get up here. Once in a life time fun. Article in Westport Shorelines today. I'm sure by now somebody has forwarded it to you.

Don had to cut down one tree (nothing special) so he could get his machine into the pond. He asked me to get someone to remove the remains. There is no room in the field as that WHOLE ENTIRE FIELD will be filled with muck. I hired a guy who I use a lot for such things, etc., to cut it up and remove. \$300.00. I also asked him to cut down the dead tree on the bank right behind the mill. \$700.00. I still have \$1979.00 in the Gray's Mill account from which I will pay him.

Cutting down and getting rid of the tree was not in the Pond contract which means I pay and don't want to get the balance too low in case something else is needed. \$5000. would be good and then I can even pay myself for my 4 yr. pond time.  
How about the grants? Have you received that money?

Subject: Re: Are you OK?  
From: Ralph Guild  
Date: Sun, 29 Oct 2006 22:04:27 -0500  
To: "Ms. Anne "Pete" N. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>

I have not been able to get to Westport so have had to see the progress through photos. They are thrilling to see and I know that none of it could have happened without your support and hard work. I gather that they will not finish by the deadline and we will have another year to wait. So I assume we will be able to fill the pond for the year and begin again next year.

Don't know when I will get there, but in the meantime I hope you have a good winter and if you need me you can call my office or send an email. Those are the fastest way to reach me and get a faster response. I'm trying to catch up with my regular mail this weekend and apologize for taking so long to get back to you.

Thanks,  
Ralph

--

Anne W. Baker  
29 Drift Rd.  
Westport, MA 02790  
508 636 3272  
Subject: Re: Photos  
From: Ralph Guild  
Date: Sat, 4 Nov 2006 12:45:36 -0500  
To: "Ms. Anne "Pete" N. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>

I'm on my way to Chicago for a business event & back in the AM. What's wrong with this picture? Looking forward to photo of water in the pond.

Where would arsenic come from? What would we do with mud if there is arsenic?

When you talk to reporters make sure Russ Beede gets credit for his generous support of the project. I still have not reached him, but I will.

Thanks again for making this happen. Can't you just imagine how great Adamsville will look with the pond and the houses on both sides restored?

Love,  
Ralph

----- Original Message -----

From: "Anne W. Baker" [awb02@sprynet.com]  
Sent: 11/04/2006 11:29 AM  
To: Ralph Guild  
Subject: Re: Photos

The big dig is stopping today-Sat.  
Monday around 11:00 he will let the water back in. I'll be there!  
And so will the newspaper. I want to be sure that people understand  
why and that we will finish!  
He will have to remove the bridge but in the meantime he has made  
sure that as soon as we dig again the bottom will be ready including  
bridge abutments.

Yes the mud has to go regardless- there is absolutely no more room.  
Don figures about 100 truckloads. We are waiting for the final test  
of the mud. As long as the content of lead and arsenic is still low  
the Tiverton landfill will take it.

Thanks for the photos...I guess the digging stopped yesterday due to the  
restrictions. Will they let us remove the mud that's still on the banks  
or do we just have to plain stop?

--

Anne W. Baker  
29 Drift Rd.  
Westport, MA 02790  
508 636 3272  
Subject: Re: The Pond again  
To: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
From: Ralph Guild  
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2006 21:50:36 -0500

Let's see if your electricity idea will work. Why not??? I like the  
way you rationalize...you come in second to me...but you are gaining  
rapidly.

You have to know I cried when I saw the pond ... and it's only half  
finished. It's truly one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen.  
What a joy!!!

Thank you.

Love,  
Ralph

"Anne W. Baker"  
<awb02@sprynet.co  
To: Ralph\_Guild  
Subject: The Pond again  
Date: 11/09/2006 07:27 PM

It was amazing to see how they let the water back in while saving/protecting everything accomplished so far in the excavation. Scott and I are going to give a talk, organized by WRWA, in January.

As for the new fire hydrant. It will not be near the pathway behind the house.

We do need to keep the hydrant at the mill because a hose from the new one could not reach north of the mill. Anyway it seems like a responsible job for the mill to be doing as the mill has always been there to serve the community. Like thinking also about making electricity. Sorry- can't help it.

Loves

--

Anne W. Baker  
29 Drift Rd.  
Westport, MA 02790  
508 636 3272(See attached file: DSCF0909.jpg)

Subject: Re: Good deeds bring good deeds.  
From: Ralph Guild <Ralph\_Guild@interep.com>  
Date: Tue, 17 Oct 2006 19:18:11 -0400  
To: "Ms. Anne "Pete" N. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>

I love you!!! You have made me very happy since the day we began to work together on the Mill. Sometimes I waiver in my belief that good deeds do in reality and not dreams and wishes, begat good deeds.

I will try to get up there again in the next week. I may charter with our former pilot if time is a factor. Wish the pond were larger I would take a seaplane.  
Thanks for passing along the good news. Please send me Russ's phone number.

Love  
Ralph

----- Original Message -----  
From: "Anne W. Baker" [awb02@sprynet.com]  
Sent: 10/17/2006 04:56 PM  
To: Ralph Guild  
Subject: Good deeds bring good deeds.

Yes, Yes.

Call today from Russell Beede who wants to donate a "substantial" amount to the pond project as a non profit gift. I called Dan McEntee to find out what account was non-profit so I could give the info to Beede. Dan told me The Guild Family Foundation, Inc. and has emailed me the necessary information to give to Beede. I called Beede to let him know and he said that there are others around who might be interested in giving. He is going to make some calls. I had a great talk with him. Explained what we have been discovering. springs, old river bed and today traces of wood that might have been part of the original damp. He was fascinated.

Thank god for Don the contractor. He is really interested in this project. He also found an old leather shoe that I swear to god looks just like a Pilgrims. This has got to be more fun than London!

Stay tuned.

--

Anne W. Baker

29 Drift Rd.

Westport, MA 02790

508 636 3272

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2006 16:25:36 -0400

From: "Scott P. Rabideau" <scott@nrswetlands.com>

Subject: Re: extension

To: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>

Anne,

The Mass. Water Quality people were receptive to an extension. However, I spoke with the RI DEM permitting supervisor today and their alteration permit would need to be changed in order to extend the 10/31 deadline. It is not possible to do this in short order. I will put together a "press release" along with my monthly regulatory report. You can disseminate the release as you see fit.

Scott

----- Original Message -----

From: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>

To: <scott@nrswetlands.com>

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 10:39 AM

Subject: extension

Hi Scott,

Will you let me know how you made out with the extension. If you couldn't get one we should put something in the paper explaining..

Pete

--

Anne W. Baker

29 Drift Rd.

Westport, MA 02790

508 636 3272

Subject: Re: The POND. READ all of this  
To: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
From: Ralph Guild  
Date: Fri, 13 Oct 2006 18:19:32 -0400

yes. I sent email saying to call Dan McEntee to get some cash into the account.

We are running for a plane right now. I will write when we get to London.

Love  
Ralph

"Anne W. Baker"  
<awb02@sprynet.co  
To: Ralph\_Guildcc:  
Subject: The POND. READ all of this  
Date: 10/13/2006 05:50 PM

It's moving outward. As you can see the muck is moving up the hill. The project is fascinating. In the second picture the stream that shows is all from springs. There is lots of them. Those ancient guys knew what they were doing. Don is very interesting. He can read the muck and knows exactly where the original stream was.

Met with Scott at length today. Apparently the fire dept. wants to put a hydrant in the area about 30 feet (at road edge) from your Gifford house. This way they can actually reach houses with a hose instead of having to fill trucks with water from the mill or pond. Nothing invasive, only a simple hydrant. I said yes.

I didn't know until today that the pond has to be finished by Nov. 1. This is doubtful. Scott might be able to get a one week extension but there is still too much to do even though Don is bringing in another digger person to help get as much done as possible. If it doesn't get finished it will mean that we will have to wait until August 07 to finish.. In the interim the pile of muck will be taken away, and the pond filled again, but this won't effect starting up in 07. Scott did say that there is a good chance to get an additional grant for 2007 work. At this point what's another 12 months to wait for sparkling clean pond and fish, fish, and morefish!

God bless Tabor and Hart who built the pond and tried to keep it clean, but the muck build-up was way beyond their ability. Scott said that it would be another 100 years of build-up before this would happen again. At least we won't have to worry about it, and anyway the DEM, by then would have gone south! I hope.

Did you get my email about money?

I have paid the guy who cut down the dead tree behind the mill and also for removing the tree that was in the way of Don's machinery (not in his contract) out of my Gray's Mill account. A total of \$1,100.00. This leaves a balance of \$875.59. I don't want to get the balance too low in case something else is needed. \$5000. would be good and then I can even pay myself for my 4 yr pond time =D>.