April 25, 2018

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WINDHAM
TOWN MANAGER

Dear Editor,

My name is Jeanne Rhein and I live at 184 Chute Road in Windham. My home phone is 572-4042 and my cell phone is 732-425-0604. I am working on a project that will hopefully impact Cooley Wright Brook. My property abuts the proposed Development – Majestic Woods – Phase – 3. In my backyard, there is a stream that flows directly into already endangered Cooley Wright Brook. I am very concerned about the waterways in Windham.

Enclosed please find a packet of information. My poem will be submitted to the Windham Eagle and the Portland Herald Press Newspapers. I hope to get published in their Opinion/Editorial Sections. I have also included the newspaper clippings about the school, as well as, documents from the DEP about Cooley Wright Brook and other endangered waterways in Windham. The last items in the packet are newspaper articles regarding Highland Lake and Forest Lake and their environmental issues.

I am a retired middle school Language Arts teacher who still loves writing. I am also a member of the South Portland Writing Group.

Thank you so much for reading this letter and looking at the packet.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Rhein

Newspaper Editorial – Retired Former Middle School Teacher's Request JeanneR.email@gmail.com

What if – The Town of Windham Planning Department
cared more about the environment than waivering
the land use ordinance for the building of a cluster
subdivision of 22 homes on 39 acres.

What if – The DEP sent an environmental specialist
out to evaluate the Wetlands, Wildlife, and Rare
Botanical Features instead of accepting the
developer's engineer's paper report.

What if – The middle school of Windham
sixth grade class concerned about
Water Pollution in the Waterways of
their town wrote letters to the
Highland Lake, Forest Lake, and
Cooley Wright Brook Concerned Citizens,
as well as, the project managers
from the DEP of Portland for their county,
inviting representatives to come to
their class to be interviewed about
the conditions threatening those
already endangered waterways.

What if – The fairy shrimp, the spotted
frog, and salamanders were saved in their vernal pools
because their town limited the
number of homes built and decided
against the quarry to be built.

What if – Their town decided
to protect those endangered waterways and
chose to limit development in those areas. (Jeanne Rhein 184 Chute Road Windham)

State of Maine

Department of Environmental Protection

Babel Brook, Ebeemee TWP

2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 State House Station | Augusta, Maine 04333-0017
www.maine.gov/dep

priority for water quality planning efforts (Table 3-2). Following a public comment opportunity and further internal review, DEP accepted the document as final in May 2016 (Appendix VI). This list of priority waters may be periodically revised as plans progress and new information emerges. In the relevant tables in Chapter 8 and in Appendices II-V, Vision waters are indicated in italics.

Table 3-2 Priority Waters Included in Maine's Vision

Assessment Unit ID	Segment Name	Location	Impairment Cause
ME0106000304_625R01	Adams Brook	Berwick	Benthic-Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments
ME0106000103_607R01	Black Brook	Windham (1)	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0103000308_325R02	Brackett Brook	Palmyra	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0102000510_224R01	Burnham Brook	Garland	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0105000305_528R06	Carlton Brook	Whitefield	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0105000305_528R08_01	Chamberlain Brook	Whitefield	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000102_603R02	Chandler River	Pownal	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0105000305_528R07	Choate Brook	Windsor	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000103_607R03	Colley Wright Brook	Windham (2)	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0101000413_146R02	Coloney Brook	Fort Fairfield	Benthic-Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments
ME0101000413_146R02	Coloney Brook	Fort Fairfield	Periphyton (Aufwuchs) Indicator Bioassessments
ME0102000510_224R07	Crooked Brook	Corinth	Periphyton (Aufwuchs) Indicator Bioassessments
ME0105000305_528R03	Dyer River	Newcastle	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0101000412_143R01	Everett Brook	Fort Fairfield	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000103_607R06	Hobbs Brook	Cumberland	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000103_607R07	Inkhorn Brook	Westbrook	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0103000311_334R03	Jock Stream	Wales	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0103000311_334R03	Jock Stream	Wales	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators
ME0105000305_528R05	Meadow Brook	Whitefield	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0101000412_143R02	Merritt Brook	Presque Isle	Benthic-Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments
ME0101000412_143R02	Merritt Brook	Presque Isle	Periphyton (Aufwuchs) Indicator Bioassessments
ME0103000309_327R01	Mill Stream	Albion	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000103_607R08	Mosher Brook	Gorham	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0103000308_325R03	Mulligan Stream	St. Albans	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0104000210_418R02	No Name Brook	Lewiston	Oxygen, Dissolved
ME0106000103_607R09	Otter Brook	Windham (3)	Oxygen, Dissolved

(3) Windham

(3) Windham

Assessment Unit ID	AU Name	Location Description	Cause	Project Status	TMDL Submittal Target Date/ Priority
				9/28/09).	
ME0106000103_607R01	Black Brook (Windham) (1)	Tributary to Presumpscot River	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017
ME0106000103_607R03	Colley Wright Brook (Windham) (2)	Tributary to Presumpscot River	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017
ME0106000103_607R07	Inkhorn Brook (Westbrook)	Tributary to Presumpscot River	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017
ME0106000103_607R08	Mosher Brook (Gorham)	Tributary to Presumpscot River	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017
ME0106000103_607R09	Otter Brook (Windham) (3)	Tributary to Presumpscot River	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017
ME0106000103_607R12	Pleasant River (Windham) (4)	Mainstem of Pleasant River from Thayer Brook to confluence with Presumpscot R	Oxygen, Dissolved	10/7/2016: DO impairment excluded from Statewide NPS TMDL (approved 8/9/2016); DEP expects to include this impairment in a future update to this TMDL.	2017

(Windham (4))

Windham Eagle Friday, April 13, 2018

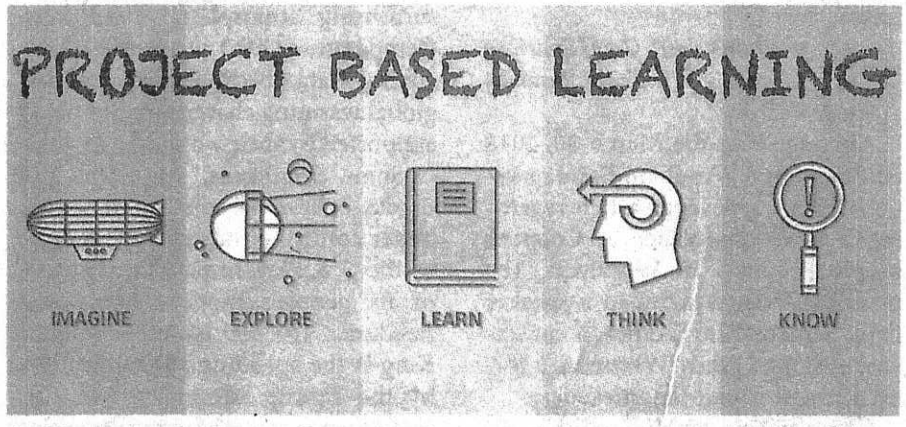
Windham Middle School participates in engaging and exciting learning methods in many subjects

By Lorraine Glowczak
STAFF WRITER

The students at Windham Middle School (WMS) will participate in Project Based Learning (PBL) from now until the end of the year. PBL is an energizing, inspiring and student-centered mode of educational discovery that includes subjects in the humanities, math, English language arts, science and data analysis.

"The teachers understand they are required to meet certain standards and criteria," began Principal of WMS, Drew Patin. "With Project Based Learning, they deliver these educational expectations in an engaging, compelling and exciting way. Often, the students have so much fun, they don't realize they are learning something important in the process."

Each grade level and classroom will work on a specific topic. The projects' learning process will include interviews, field trips, speaking with a panel of experts in their field of study, as well as building and maintaining specific project designs as it relates to their topic. There will be guiding questions, kick-off events and final products for the required learning outcome. Part of



that learning outcome will be shared with the community via print media, including The Windham Eagle newspaper.

The various topics of which the students will participate include the following:

- Students working with veterans to understand the history of wars, the qualities of a hero, and the sacrifices and contributions made by those who served.
- Students taking an active role of environmental scientist by constructing an argument supported by evidence that explains the negative effects of pollution in water.
- In the topic "Be the Voice: Giving a Voice to those that are Voiceless in the Face of Adversity," students will choose an adversity that the Earth faces due to human factors. They will research this topic to explain implications of this problem and make suggestions for change.
- Students will learn about the opioid epidemic in Maine by researching its impact on the state and devise solutions to improve Maine's future.
- For the "Dam It" projects, students will provide an evidence-based position/opinion on the removal or continued use of a dam on the Presumpscot River.
- A team of students will facilitate a project in which they will work collaboratively to become informed and opinionated citizens about controversial renewable energy sources.
- Another project will engage a team of students in a project where they will develop answers to the following question: "What makes a sustainable community?"
- A group of music students will discover ways to make music more accessible to all students in the RSU14 district.

Other projects will look at heart disease, vaping, cultural awareness, hydroponics and how to make a change in democracy.

Each teacher determined the subject matter, based upon their students' interests. "We wanted to choose a topic that was relevant to our area (community) and many of our students live near or frequent Sebago Lake and other local bodies of water," explained sixth grade teacher, Cory Didonato, whose group project is entitled, "How Dirty is

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Windham Eagle Friday, March 30, 2018

Public forum educates and engages lake area watershed residents

By Lorraine Glowczak
STAFF WRITER

The Highland Lake Association hosted a Public Forum for Highland Lake residents and the Lake Region communities on Wednesday, March 21 at the Windham High School Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The primary purpose was to discuss what is currently known about the lake, to address the issues faced regarding the lake and ways for area residents to be actively engaged in the health of the watershed. A question and answer session followed. Approximately 80 people attended the event.

The Forum was facilitated by Craig Freshley, founder of Good Group Decisions, Inc. and Makeshift Coffeehouse. It included a panel of four area experts in the field of water quality who each presented up to date information. The presenters for the forum included Wendy Garland of the Maine Department of Environment (DEP), Dr. Karen Wilson of the University of Southern Maine (USM) as well as Gretchen Anderson from the Town of Windham and Heather True of Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD).

Garland was the first to present, providing background information of the lake. She shared that Highland Lake has experienced a gradual decline in water quality over the past four years as a result of an increase in algae; the cause due to the excess input of phosphorus. This growth is referred to as Pico cyanobacteria bloom (also referred to as picoplankton bloom.)

The lake has a high phosphorus level due to camp road runoff, soil erosion, fertilizer use, pet waste, septic issues and development. The phosphorus in the atmosphere also plays a role.

Dr. Wilson, who has worked with the Highland Lake watershed in her role as associate research professor with USM's Department of Environmental Science and Policy discussed the unknowns. She is an expert in the field of Limnology – the study of the biological, chemical, and physical features of lakes and other bodies of fresh water.

Wilson stated that that Highland Lake has the most households in comparison to other Maine lakes. She discussed the importance of the food web and how the Pico cyanobacteria bloom can potentially harm that web. She explained that the bloom occurs at the same time every year, late July and most of August.

Wilson explained that scientists don't fully understand or aren't able to identify the source of the Pico cyanobacteria bloom. In an attempt to do so, surveys and studies will occur this summer, 2018. The focus will include, but is not limited to, the physical structure of the lake.

Keeping soil out of the lake is imperative because soil easily binds to phosphorus. With that in mind, both Anderson and True identified ways

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for residences to protect the lake. This includes the goal of mimicking the natural shoreline by establishing a vegetative buffer, planting native trees and shrubs in the upland areas, explaining that root structures hold the water in place that prevents excessive runoff.

Installing a dripline trench to absorb roof runoff, installing rain barrels, planting a rain garden and repairing roads and driveways were other suggestions.

Most residents who attended the event gained a deeper understanding of what is occurring and are ready to act to help rectify the problem.

"Having just moved into the community this summer, the Forum provided my fiancé and I with a lot of background information and context for what has been happening with the health of the lake in the past, and plans going forward," stated Richard Qualey. "Between the information presented, and the information available at the door, there was a good amount of material available as to what sources contribute to the pollution of the lake, and what we can do as homeowners and community members to reduce our impact."

The Public Forum inspired some residents to engage and act immediately. "I learned that dog feces (not picked up) runs into the lake and the phosphorus from their feces hurts the lake," stated Barbara Jessen "The next morning after the meeting I explained to three dog owners on my road about their dogs' feces. Even kicking the poop into the woods does not stop the feces from entering the lake during a rain storm, etc. On Sunday I went on a mission: to find dog pick-up bags. After some research, I found that Dollar Tree sells 80 bags for $1. I bought seven packages, brought them home and gave one to each of the dog owners on my road."

Resident, Tonya Heskett stated that she plans to participate in the volunteer efforts as well as do their part to protect the shoreline. "Our goal is to take advantage of the information provided about the buffer zone to protect the shoreline and runoff into the lake at our property," Heskett stated.

Qualey and his fiancé have plenty of landscaping plans also. "Our plans should help reduce the impact on the lake our property, and hopefully help with some of the runoff from surrounding properties as well."

Mike Fasulo, a former Highland Lake Association board member, was most impressed with the involvement of the towns of Windham and Falmouth. He stated he was very happy to see the municipalities' dedication to the issue. Fasulo highly recommends all lake residents to become members of the association and to get involved.

There are many ways an individual can become engaged. One way is by volunteering, with many options to choose from. They include the following:

- Watershed Survey – Forty people are needed to complete a survey on Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No experience necessary. Contact Chantal Scott at 207- 899-7641 or chantal.altavista@gmail.com
- Water quality sampling transportation volunteers – Drivers are needed to drive samples to University of New Hampshire. The roundtrip to UNH is about 140 miles. Contact Chantal Scott for more information.
- Buffer Protection Volunteers – This includes planning shrubs, bushes, perennials, cleaning out ditches and helping with the road improvements. Again, contact Chantal Scott for more information
- Alewives counting volunteers – From May to June, Alewives that come up the fish ladder into the lake need to be counted. Contact Rosie Hartzler at 207-415-3727 or at rosie@rosieworks.com
- Lake Depth Calculation Volunteers – Volunteers with boats are needed to re-calculate the depths of the lake. Equipment and training provided by Lakes Environmental Association. Contact Rosie Hartzler for more information.

The health of Highland Lake is not only a concern to its residents and the towns that are part of the lake but is an overall concern for maintaining the health of all lakes in the Lakes Region. Whether or not one is a resident of Highland Lake, the information that was offered at the Public Forum can be used by all area watershed residents.

For more information, contact Highland Lake Association President, Rosie Hartzler at 207-415-3727 or at rosie@rosieworks.com.

Forest Lake residents fill room at Town Council meeting

By Lorraine Glowczak
STAFF WRITER

Although the agenda items scheduled for the Tuesday, April 3 Windham Town Council Meeting at Windham Town Hall consisted of the Highland Lake Watershed Moratorium, a phosphorus fertilizer ban in the Highland Lake Watershed and a discussion on Council rules regarding the conduct, social media use and staff communication, it was the residents at Forest Lake who received the most attention.

Approximately 40 people filled the chamber room to express their concerns regarding a potential quarry to be built in the Forest Lake watershed. The quarry, which is on private land, sits near Forest Lake and abuts the Falmouth Nature Preserve which in turn borders Lowell Preserve. Lowell Preserve is in the Highland Lake watershed.

Forest Lake residents expressed concerns regarding the effect the quarry would have on the health of the lake and their fear that their own lake would reach a tipping point much like Highland Lake has reached now.

Due to the runoff through the Falmouth Preserve onto the Lowell Preserve, water runoff from the quarry can also affect Highland Lake.

The various concerns and statements the residents expressed to the Council included but were not limited to:

- Private roads being used for the quarry trucks. The quarry should adhere to commercial road standards.
- The quarry is asking for a waiver to the rules of project building in the area and they should not be considered as an exception.
- Air quality as a result of dust created by the quarry trucks and the effect it would have on those who have asthma.
- Concern that blasting will leak phosphorus into the lake adding to not only an unhealthy lake but the quality of well water used for drinking and showering.
- A request to consider extending the moratorium to Forest Lake, which is on the Maine DEP list of lakes most at risk for development.
- Concern regarding the effect of quarry blasting on basements and foundations.
- Concern that the increased phosphorus would contribute to loss of fish species
- Decreased quality of life as well as decreased property value.
- Safety for children at play.

Council members responded to the concerns expressed. Councilwoman Cummings stated that as a school nurse she had major issues with the air quality and how it would affect children in the watershed, especially those with asthma. Councilman Nangle stated he would not support a quarry in the Forest Lake neighborhood. Councilman Muir expressed that all who spoke to the council had very valid concerns and the conversation on this topic will continue. "I encourage you to show up at the next Planning Board meeting – and keep coming to these meetings," Muir stated.

Council Chair, Chapman also expressed her concerns and disappointments regarding the health of the environment. "We must expect better," she stated.

For full details of this and other meetings, go to www.windhammaine.us. The meetings are also available to view on Facebook Live as well as recorded and broadcasted on channel 7.