

Steven's Pond Algae Elimination Program

On January 30th a public input meeting was held on the Steven's Pond Algae issue in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. At that meeting the two consultants who performed the studies on the issue, Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) and Weston & Sampson Engineers (W&S), presented their findings. Their presentations were posted on the Town's Web Site shortly after the meeting and they can be found there currently. Questions and comments from the public were taken and answered. Subsequent to the input meeting, the consultants prepared their final reports, which included the following recommendations.

ACT's recommendations are two fold; an in-pond recommendation and a watershed recommendation

1. An alum treatment early in the year before the beach opens, which if timed correctly, will not affect the beach opening. This was done on June 4, 2013.
2. Season-long monitoring and sampling by the beach operations staff and ACT personnel to determine early warning of potential algae blooms and to collect additional data to determine future year needs.
3. Potential treatment with copper algaecide. This will be to reduce blooms, should they come out early and to minimize beach closure for treatment period. The need for this treatment will be based on the above monitoring and sampling,
4. An assessment of Steven's Pond watershed to determine long term watershed management program.
5. We will continue the control of the plant life by methods such as weed hydro raking.

The DPW has received North Andover Conservation Commission and MADEP approval for this program.

W&S findings were conclusive in confirming the DPW's belief that flushing just before or during beach operations to eliminate a plume will negatively impact our ability to deliver enough drinking water from Lake Cochichewick for the Town's needs.