

Greetings, fellow lake residents! We ring in the New Year, having made great strides on our various projects. It's been a busy 1974. Our dam is to become a reality this coming fall: negotiations regarding its cost, its engineering and its encroachment on property went on across the summer and right through until Christmas. Engineer Wayne Lawrence presented a set of plans to the State and to the Water Resources Board; the right to construct the dam was obtained from the Laperas and the Duchams; the right to the sluice was obtained from the LaFonts and the Selectmen of Glover voted to help financially with the project and prepared the numerous documents required by the State to "declare their intentions". These preparations, extending across the last three years, reached their culmination on October 9, 1974, when the Water Resources Board met in Glover to conduct a hearing to decide the fate of our project. (We tried to reach you all with a flier about this in case you could attend.) We heard the great news in December. The answer was "Approved": Catharine Bothwell, Executive Secretary of the Water Resources Board wished to have you apprised of the Water Resources Board report and I volunteered to digest it for you. It is hereto attached.

Another consummation occurred. After many negotiations, we have moved ahead with project number #2, that of the public area for picnicking, swimming and boating. Edward Koenemann, Director of Planning, agreed to finance the project through B.O.R. funds (50% Federal, 35% State and 15% local). The Selectmen of Glover agreed to pay their share and Jim Sairs, landscape architect, helped us select the site and has made tentative plans for its development. (The site is bounded on the south by the present public area; the north by the South Albany road; the west by the access road and the east by the Don Clark property.) Meantime Mr. Kehoe, of Fish and Game, agreed to share their 225 foot lake front for a 100 foot swimming beach. After many negotiations, Dr. Frank Damazo, the owner of the 2.75 acres, has given the town of Glover an option to buy the property. The State and Federal funds for this acquisition will come under the 1975 budget and are expected to be transferred to the Town of Glover in July. We expect that the park itself will be developed in 1976. Next summer we will review the plans for the Park at a special meeting of the Association in order that you might contribute your ideas and suggestions. Perhaps Jim Sairs will meet with us next summer.

But while projects #1 and #2 are indirect approaches to the problem, project #3, that of improving the water quality of the lake, is, of course, the central issue. Throughout the fall, Jim Morse's team of biologists continued to visit the Lake monthly and to amass the data needed to know how best to deal with our weeds and algae. I expect that Jim Morse will visit one of our meetings this coming summer to discuss the new possibilities for control which the new dam will open for us as well as to inform us of various avenues of approach to this problem.

We really seem to be on our way to what the Water Resources Board called an "enhancement of the recreational possibilities" of Lake Parker. What was thought to be impossible in 1972 is now in the offing and 1975 will be a year of great new improvements for us.

The only sour note in this otherwise merry tune is the rash of burglaries occurring around the Lake at Thanksgiving. Fourteen cottages were broken into and assorted items stolen. But our fate in this regard is reflected across the entire State, indeed, across the Nation. I responded by writing to Governor Salmon, in the name of the Association, about the serious lack of police protection in the Barton area. I asked that a State Police unit be set up there to tend to our five area lakes and four towns, now cared for by only one trooper. I protested any cut-backs on police service in the 1975 budget. I have been told that radio communications officers - civilians who dispatch police to trouble spots - have also been cut back. Radio communication is one of the trooper's principle weapons and any loss of this service is serious indeed. But in a State as sparsely populated as Vermont, it is almost fatal. The Governor responded as of December 31, insisting that "there is no plan to reduce the police force". Whether that speaks for the future or for the present 1975 budget is doubtful. He recognized the need for expansion of the force but pleaded lack of funds. However, he has asked the Commissioner of Public Safety to look into the police situation in the Barton area.

But as Vermont went, so goes the Nation. Everywhere the response to inflation is to cut back on services, including those of police, in the very teeth of a precipitously rising crime wave which could easily move in Vermont, as it has elsewhere, from burglary to armed robbery. It may be some time before public officials come to recognize that the central purpose of government is not its own political survival but the protection of its citizens and the preservation of the quality of civilized life. The State budget seems to have thrown the ball to us, leaving us with the options either of taking the law in our own hands or finding some legitimate ways to protect ourselves. New York City is trying to develop several corps of auxiliary civilian volunteers ("block watchers", etc.), who are equipped and trained by the police and who report to them via two-way radio. Even Garden City, Long Island, has developed a corps of uniformed civilian auxiliary police who help take the brunt off the regular force. It remains to be seen how these efforts will work out. At least it's an idea on the subject of protection and these seem to be in short supply. Perhaps you will want to discuss this next summer at one of our meetings.

1975 cannot help but be an exciting, challenging and rewarding year for us. Floyd Taylor joins me in wishing you all a happy, prosperous and, above all, hopeful New Year!

Evelyn Buchler
Representative to State and Local Gov't.
Lake Parker Association

1/6/75

A DIGEST OF THE WATER RESOURCES BOARD'S "FINDING OF FACT AND ORDER".

Dec. 6, 1974

1. The Water Resources Board met in Glover on October 5, 1974 and heard our proposal for a dam on the sluice at Lake Parker and gave their approval to the project on December 6, 1974.
2. The dam will be 94 feet long with 66 feet serving as the primary spillway. There will be a step log section of 4" planks to regulate the lake level.
3. The stream channel of Roaring Brook will be cleared and widened for a distance of 300 feet to accomodate the flow from the step logs. This preparation is to be done with as little disruption as possible both to private property and to the fish habitat.
4. The dam will be owned by the Town of Glover which will have the authority to regulate the step logs in order to maintain the water level as prescribed by the Water Resources Board.
5. The Lake is to be maintained at the same level as it was on July 30, 1974 when the bench marks were put at the Lake. (The level being 2.6' below the benchmark, as it was on that day). The only exception to this is that the Agency of Environmental Conservation retains the right to manipulate water levels in the non-camping season if this should become necessary for the welfare of the fish in the Lake.
6. The Fish and Game Department retains the right to provide an improved fishway through the step-logs should that ever become desirable.
7. Construction of the dam must begin in the fall of 1975, but before October 1, and must be completed by November 15, 1975.
8. The Water Resources Board has the right to inspect the operation and maintainance of the dam. If anything is done other than what is outlined by the approved plans (for instance, if the summer water level is to be changed), an application to do it has to be sent to the Water Resources Board.