

October 27, 2009

Hello everyone...

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding the 2009 drawdown. Per my email on 12 October, we were approved by the Conservation Commission to start the drawdown on 15 October 09 with a total lake level reduction of 5-feet.

Since that time, two residents have come forward regarding the impact a 5-foot drawdown would have on their shallow wells. Subsequently, the Conservation Commission requested that GEIA representatives and those residents who expressed concern over the 5-foot drawdown attend their 21 October 09 meeting. At the request of GEIA, Lee Lyman, from Lycott Environmental, also attended the meeting and provided all parties concerned with information regarding the drawdown process.

Based on information found in the current Notice of Intent and concerns provided by the residents, the Conservation Commission rescinded their vote to allow a 5-foot drawdown at that meeting. The current Notice of Intent (NOI), which lists the Board of Selectmen as the applicant, allows for a 4-foot drawdown, so the drawdown will continue to that level (at the current rate of 1-2 inches per day).

The GEIA intends on asking the Board of Selectmen, at their 17 November 09 meeting, to make an amendment to the current NOI to allow for a 5-foot drawdown to aid in weed control for the lake. The 5-foot drawdown was recommended by Lycott to address the increase in weed growth that we have been experiencing over the past year.

I encourage residents to come to this meeting to voice their support and/or concerns regarding the requested 5-foot drawdown. Drawdowns are a low-cost, environmentally friendly method for weed control and allow for additional waterfront clean up and repair which preserves the ecology of the lake.

Please come to this meeting to support the request to revise the Notice of Intent.

Thank you,
Jackie Nowak
President, GEIA