



CAMDEN PARKS & RECREATION

Camden Snow Bowl

P.O. Box 1207
20 Barnestown Road
Camden, ME 04843

June 17, 2014

Hosmer Pond Association and Camden Snow Bowl Neighbors:

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, it rained 3.5 inches, according to our rain gauge. We have worked closely with our forester and logging contractor to install silt fences, slash barriers, and water bars to control erosion caused by the skidding of whole trees down ski trails. While these precautions have been successful in keeping silt out of Hosmer Pond, we did not anticipate the impact of storm water run-off across the parking lot. The logging operation has put a significant amount of top soil in the parking lot. The high volume of rain, running off the trails, and across the parking lot-- at one point about 3 inches deep- washed some of that topsoil, with a high level of organic matter, into Hosmer Brook and directly into the Pond. Gravel we recently put in place on the boat ramp was also washed into the pond and contributed to the murky water.

I apologize for this. We have had a crew out all day installing more erosion control measures around the parking lot and are determined not to allow this to happen again. We have informed the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and discussed with them our remediation measures.

I also want to take the opportunity to beg your forgiveness for the noise of the logging operation, especially in the early morning. While we are anxious to have them be done, and they often are eager to get work done before it rains, I have asked the contractor not to start cutting trees until 7 am.

Our project requires some significant logging and we have made every effort to make sure that this aspect of the project supports local economic and environmental interests. The plan is based on a balance of recreational use, aesthetics, sustainability and modest timber revenues.

The redevelopment plan has, almost since the outset, called for increasing skiing terrain by 18 acres. We pared that to 15 acres last fall and that is what the plan submitted to the DEP (also available on the CSB website) calls for. In the process of clearing that terrain, we have further reduced it by another 1-2 acres by adding several islands of trees to the Northeaster Trail. Last fall we took the additional step of hiring a forester to manage the clearing, but also to create a forest management plan to begin the process of managing towards a healthy, productive forest over the long term. That plan (available in the Redevelopment section of the CSB website) calls for selective harvesting of some parts of the forest. In some areas it is to cut over-mature trees and open the canopy to allow younger trees to flourish; in other areas it is to remove diseased beech and poorly formed and unhealthy trees.

Logging often inspires controversy; however, it contributes significantly to the Maine and local economies. The current operation directly provides 6 jobs and indirectly several others. It provides renewable fuel for the co-generation bio-mass boiler at the paper mill in Bucksport; it provides pulp to the coated paper mill in Rumford, which in turn, supplies the paper for LL Bean catalogs. It also provides high quality logs to local saw mills that produce wood for flooring and furniture. We also anticipate using some of the wood harvested for parts of the new lodge. The wood we are producing is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (more on FSC here: <https://ic.fsc.org/certification>). FSC certification ensures that products come from well managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

As for the rest of the project, we are currently working on assembling the towers for the triple chair, finalizing plans for the new snow-making system, and looking forward to bring things up the hill, rather than bringing them down.

Again, my apologies for letting our shared and important resource, Hosmer Pond, get muddied. If you have concerns or questions, please call me at the Snow Bowl (236-3438) or email me at lfake@camdenmaine.gov. Thank you for your forbearance- and for your support of this community project.

Landon Fake

General Manager, Camden Snow Bowl