

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

APRIL 6, 2016

On Tuesday night, the citizens, nearly unanimously, approved the initial phase of saving Fawn Lake, The \$100,000 that was approved will be used to create the Design and Engineering plans for the recommended wet dredge.

There were a few questions that came up at the Annual Town meeting and there might be some misinformation milling around out there.

1. Toxins: There was a concern that the herbicides that were used in the past to control the aquatic growth have poisoned the sediment that will be removed. If that were true, naturally the concern would be how we handle the removal and costs of disposing the toxic muck. Thankfully the muck has been extensively analyzed, and other than some slightly higher levels of lead, it is free of toxins and could actually be used as fertilizer.

2. It has been dredged before and it hasn't worked: The concern was that we have tried dredging and it has failed - so why would it work this time. The lake actually has not been dredged - it has been hydro-raked. This pulled the aquatic growth from the surface, which helped for 2-3 years until the 'weeds' grew back again. The dredging will actually go back down to the original depth of the lake and pull out all the sediment that has built up over the past 100 plus years. The lake has taken over 150 years to get to the point of where it is now, so there is no reason not to think that the dredge will be a solution to last for a very long time.

3. Why not drain the lake - let the muck dry out over two years - and then dredge it? While removing and disposing of dry muck is definitely cheaper than wet muck, this option would not be the best choice for a number of reasons. Originally the lake was about 3 acres or so and was fed by a number of springs, so this area would never really dry up and would essentially be a swamp. Secondly, from an environmental standpoint, we would lose an extraordinary eco-system. Even the consultants who have been analyzing the lake for the town have been impressed and amazed with the diverse and extensive amount of wildlife that call Fawn Lake home.

A huge thanks to the Fawn Lake Committee for all their hard work, late nights, extensive research and their true teamwork effort in making this all happen.

Please visit our [Facebook Page, Fawn Lake Bedford Springs](#), for updates and to share your experiences, photos and questions.

Laura Bullock