

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LANG POND ROAD?**

Lang Pond Road has been an issue in Tuftonboro for a long time. It connects Route 109 near the Libby Museum with Route 109A east of Tuftonboro Center, near the Wolfeboro town line. The southern end, from the bottom of the hill to Route 109 is in Wolfeboro and has already been improved. The Tuftonboro portion is closed to through traffic during the winter season. The road is a popular connection for local travelers and contractors and is also a favorite with people who like to walk, exercise pets. In addition, Lang Pond Road also provides public access to Mirror Lake. The road itself is located on difficult terrain, passes close to Mirror Lake with wetlands on one or both sides. The road passes directly down slope on both ends making storm water drainage challenging. There is a significant watershed on the east side capable of delivering enough storm water to overflow the culverts and flood the road. In fact, the road is frequently washed out, creating high maintenance and repair costs. These storm water issues have also contributed significant amounts of soil and nutrient pollution to Mirror Lake.

Nutrient pollution to our lakes can result in unattractive and foul smelling water as well as encourage cyanobacteria blooms which are toxic to both animals and humans and can result in a reduction in real estate values and subsequently, losses in tax revenue. This and the high cost of maintenance provides a financial incentive to solve the problem. In addition, emergency and/or service access during weather events could be an issue as well.

The first attempt at a solution resulted in a very expensive engineering design and seemed out of proportion to the value of the road. The Tuftonboro Selectmen subsequently appointed a committee of willing citizens to look for other alternatives to solve the problem. Dave Ford, who was chairman of the committee at that time, organized and facilitated a stakeholders meeting so that interested people could express their views and preferences for the road in the future. The result was a list of objectives that could be a basis for the design of the road in addition to solving the pollution and maintenance problems. This included maintaining the rural character of the road with an alignment that would not encourage high speed vehicle travel and recognized the need for public access to Mirror Lake as well as heavy truck travel.

Since that time, the Mirror Lake Watershed Committee has been working diligently to find a design solution that satisfies the stakeholder objectives, cleans up the erosion hazards and is affordable for the Town. This was no easy task. Many local sources of engineering and construction expertise were consulted, traffic and pedestrian safety was considered as well as lake access and snowmobile use. Various cost estimates were compared and weighed against the stakeholder objectives. When the Committee felt that the best and most affordable solution had been reached, they submitted a list of recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen accepted the recommendations and contracted an engineering firm to develop a design plan for road and stormwater improvements and provide a construction cost estimate for the project. The Selectmen requested the plan be designed so that it could be possible for the Town's Road Agent to perform the work in phases.

During the design process, current Chairman Ben Ladd and Selectmen's Representative, Lloyd Wood monitored progress ensure that the stakeholder objectives, design concepts and cost controls

recommended by the Mirror Lake Watershed Committee were observed. At the same time the Mirror Lake Protective Association donated \$5,000 for the purpose of obtaining the required NH DES permits for the project. The Selectmen intend to submit a warrant article for consideration at this year's Town Meeting that would fund the project. The Mirror Lake Watershed Committee is hopeful that Tuftonboro voters will recognize all of their efforts to find the right solution for Lang Pond Road at the lowest possible cost and vote in favor of the article.

For any additional information and/or questions, please contact either Ben Ladd at 569-1063 or Steve Wingate at 569-3114.