

June 8 2018

Dear David,

Our response to the Pond 3 residents letter is that we are very happy that they are interested in the health of their lake and hope that their concern extends to the other lakes in the Park as well as their watershed.

As we have indicated before we are concerned about using chemicals in Pond 3 unless we are confident of their safety and such use is part of a long term plan for the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in all our lakes. The New York DEC considers Pond 3 part of the drinking water reservoir of Tuxedo Park and so its use there sets a precedent. There is no recent plant survey for Pond 3 so we are not sure of the density of the infestation, however, we are not convinced that the Pond 3 infestation can't be controlled by aggressive pulling thereby avoiding the health risks, although small, of using chemicals.

Such an aggressive pulling program should be done in clear water, so we suggest, that if needed, Pond 3 be treated with an algaecide to reduce the algae and clarify the water before pulling begins. The vacuum harvesting should consistently pull the EWM roots. If the plants are broken and mostly stems harvested, the plants will regrow. The contract with the harvesting company should explicitly state that root removal is a prime objective. The harvesting bags should be checked for roots to be sure root removal is happening. Lake committee members can be involved in this checking as can Pond 3 residents. Because EWM reproduces primarily by fragmentation it is essential that all fragments created during harvesting be removed from the lake. The fragments float for about 2 weeks before they sink to create new plants. It is a very efficient way for the plant to spread. The harvesters should be supervised to ensure fragment collection, any fragments not so removed from Pond 3 can be skimmed by Lake committee members and residents of Pond 3. If the EWM roots are harvested and the fragments collected the Pond 3 EWM infestation should be substantially reduced.

Treating Pond 3 with 2.4D will not kill the plants, it will clear the lake for a time but the treatment will need to be repeated again and again. Pulling the roots can kill the plants and skimming the fragments can prevent or reduce the spread of EWM. We think that Pond 3 is a good place to do an aggressive pulling experiment, as outlined above, and we are delighted by the interest of Pond 3 residents and welcome their participation.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the BOT.

Sincerely,

James Hays  
For The Tuxedo Park Lakes Committee