



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2017

### **Study supports Neighbors' call to keep ponds**

Rutland, VT – Water quality in Moon Brook can be restored without draining Combination or Piedmont Pond, according to a study of water temperatures prepared by the State of Vermont and consultants working for the City of Rutland. The study's findings were presented Monday night to a group of property owners and others concerned about the future of the ponds.

The City is required by the State of Vermont to improve water quality in Moon Brook, which does not meet state standards. After a decade of controversy and litigation, last year the City and the State agreed that solving the problem will require controlling stormwater entering the brook and lowering summertime water temperatures. The two ponds are believed to be a main cause of excessive heat in the brook.

Last year the City received a grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation to retain the engineering services of Milone and MacBroom of Waterbury to investigate modifications to the ponds that reduce heating and are acceptable to neighbors and other interested parties. Monday's was the third of five planned public meetings on the subject, and the first in which the engineers confirmed that planting shade trees, dredging the ponds, and lowering water levels can achieve the needed temperature reductions.

The information was welcomed by those in attendance because it resolved the long-standing fear that the ponds would have to be drained and a stream channel restored to achieve the needed cooling.

The consultants will now prepare photo simulations of the future appearance of the ponds for presentation to the public in the next meeting. Once a final design is approved construction engineering will be completed. If all goes according to schedule, construction could begin by October of 2018.

Meeting presentations and other documents can be found at [www.rutlandcity.org/ponds](http://www.rutlandcity.org/ponds)

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