

Portsmouth Herald 1970's

By JANE ANDREWS Staff Writer

RYE: The Army Corps of Engineers has granted a permit for all the dredging of Parson's Creek, selectmen announced last night. The dredging project will include removal of a sunken barge that blocks tidal flow there.

One result is that algae die and decay, causing the odor that gives the stream its local name of "Stinky Creek."

In addition, the state plans to rebuild the Parson's Creek Bridge. The State Department of Public Works and Highways will hold a public hearing on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall to explain that project and the reconstruction of White's Bridge.

The town plans to dredge 780 cubic yards of sand and remove the wreck to create a single channel that will deepen the channel to five feet, widen it to 20 feet and straighten the channel for about 750 feet along the existing course of the creek.

Some of the sand will be used to fill parts of the existing channel which officials say meandered during the past few decades. The rest will go to the town landfill. Lisa Jones, environmental engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers, said examination of the creek showed there weren't any septic wastes there. Jones said it takes an exceptionally high tide to wash out the pools upstream. Dredging the little puddles into a single channel, she said, "should alleviate the smell."

The Corps attached a condition to the permit requiring that salt marsh vegetation not be disturbed and no dredged material be put where it will impact on the marsh area.

The permit is good for three years. Jones said the town also has approval from the state Wetlands Board but still needs approval from the state Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission.