

**Update on the Lake Anasagunticook Dam
October 21, 2008**

The Town of Canton now owns the dam. Appraiser Dan Dwyer, of Dwyer Associates in Augusta, found the liability on the dam to be significantly more than the properties marketable value and, therefore, reported the dam properties value as "nil". A special Canton town meeting was held on July 26 and Canton voters approved the eminent domain taking and set the damages at \$10,000. A check was sent to the dam owner for \$10,000, the deeds were transferred to the Town of Canton and registered with the Registry of Deeds in So. Paris.

In August, a Natural Resources Protection Act [NRPA] application was submitted to DEP for a permit to build a temporary, sand bag dam between Whitney Brookside and Canton Water District properties, approximately half way between the lake and the current dam. The temporary dam will be owned and maintained by the Canton Water District. On September 26, DEP voiced their concern about the use of sandbags, vulnerable to damage from exposure to sunlight and ice, over the three-year period on the application. Restricting the use of sandbags from April to November may answer DEP's major concerns so a spring installation looks more possible. Materials have been donated and labor volunteered so the expenses for installing a temporary dam should be minimal.

There is no interest in repairing the current dam and the plan is to remove it and build a new dam at the old bridge piers just upstream of the current dam. The designs, plans and costs of new construction and removal of the old dam are still under consideration. Requests for proposals for a three-phase construction project will be sent to engineers and engineering firms in Maine in the near future. It is these final designs and plans that will dictate the estimated costs and our fundraising goal for the project.

Canton voters appropriated \$22,000 and Hartford voters \$20,000. The LAA dam fund currently holds a little over \$8,000 and private contributions to the Canton Dam Fund currently exceed \$5,000. Fundraising efforts have begun. A Red Sox ticket raffle and the LAA Super Dam Raffle were successful in raising over \$5,500 this summer. Our current fundraiser, the November Calendar Raffle needs your support. Donations to the Canton Dam Fund and the LAA Dam Fund are gratefully being accepted. Once the final cost estimates are known, grants and/or low interest loans will be sought as necessary to meet the fundraising goals.

Once a new dam is in place and the old one removed, the final phase (operation and maintenance of the new structure) will begin. The Canton Water District has committed to making regular inspections of both the temporary and permanent dams and maintain water levels. An inter-local agreement will be brought to the voters of Canton and Hartford calling for equal cost sharing of the permanent structure once installed and paid for.

The Core Group continues to meet every other Monday evening at 6:30 at the Canton Town Office. The next meeting is Monday, October 27th and all are welcome. This continues to be a community effort for the protection of the lake and we need your support!

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton