

Update on the Lake Anasagunticook Dam January 15, 2009

The Town of Canton owns the dam. The State's case against the former dam owner has not yet been settled. It is likely that we will see a temporary dam installed in the spring. Preliminary designs, permitting requirements and estimated costs for building a new dam at the bridge abutments and repairing the old dam should be available by the end of January. Securing grants, loans, bonds and/or fundraising are now the major focus.

The Canton Water District (CWD) has submitted a NRPA application to DEP for a temporary sandbag dam below the narrowest point in the brook between Whitney Brookside property and the CWD. DEP granted an extension to January 30th for the CWD to answer two specific concerns regarding minimum flow requirements and overtopping a sandbag dam. The original application has been modified and addressed the state's concern for the integrity of the sandbags. The application is for the installation of a sandbag dam early in May and complete removal by early November each year. The CWD will make regular inspections of the dam and make repairs as needed. To meet the minimum flow requirements, a culvert with a box gate has been added to the design supported by required calculations. The new design also includes an 8' section in the middle, which will be 2' lower than the 6' high structure, to create a spillway. The culvert and spillway with stop logs to raise and lower water levels is expected to address the overtopping issues. A permit is now likely and hopefully construction of the temporary dam will take place early in May. Volunteers are needed. Can you help?

Canton has hired Kleinschmidt Energy & Water Resource Consultants from three engineering firm proposals submitted in November. Phase I of the project will include preliminary designs, permitting requirements and cost estimates. Kevin Cooley, Kleinschmidt project engineer, will meet with the Core Group on January 26, 2009 and expects to present a draft of their preliminary designs for repairing the old dam and constructing a new dam along with permitting requirements and cost estimates for both. The Core Group has suggested a new earth and stone structure and has asked Kleinschmidt to consider the use of volunteer labor and equipment. A six-foot high dam at the bridge abutments is expected to bring the summer water levels close to the 402 mark of the old dam. A spillway with the use of stop logs would allow flexibility in managing water levels. Consultation with environmental experts at DEP has suggested that a smaller winter drawdown of water levels is advisable. The complete drawdown would no longer be needed to prevent gates from freezing. Core Group meetings are held at the Canton Town Office at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

The Core Group focus has moved from acquiring the dam to securing the funds needed to make the repairs or construct a new permanent dam. When Canton decides on the design of the dam, we will have a fundraising goal for the project, which will likely be in the six-figures. Grants, loans, bonds and general fundraising are options being considered. An experienced grant writer is needed to take the lead in securing government or private grants. Low interest loans and government bonds are two more possibilities. Continuing to raise funds through donations to the Canton Dam Fund or the Lake Anasagunticook Dam Fund and raffles, sales and other projects are needed. About \$42,000 is currently available. This includes the remainder of the voter appropriations in Canton and Hartford and the donations to and funds raised for the Canton and lake association dam funds. Volunteers are needed. You could make a real difference.

An Inter-local Agreement was brought before Hartford voters in December. This vote was postponed until a few remaining issues are resolved. This agreement would form an advisory Dam Committee to oversee the operation and maintenance of a completed permanent dam on Whitney Brook. Canton Water District personnel would provide regular inspections and perform general maintenance of the dam with no compensation. Budgets would be prepared by the Dam Committee to be included in both Canton and Hartford's annual budgetary processes. Once the representation on the Dam Committee and the cost/profit

sharing between the two towns is established, this agreement must be ratified by a majority of the voters at the Canton Town meeting in March and Hartford's in June.

Lake Anasagunticook is a natural resource and valuable asset to both Canton and Hartford. Local volunteers from both towns are needed to successfully complete this project to restore water levels, encourage economic growth in the area and protect recreation and the environment of the lake and it's watershed. If you are willing to help or have suggestions, please contact either the Canton (597-2920) or Hartford Town office (388-2674), Mac Ray for the Core Group (597-2779), Biff Atwater for the lake association (508-528-4086) or anyone else involved in finding a permanent solution.

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton