

Temporary Dam

As most of you have probably heard by now the stream bed under one of the 20-ft spans in the temporary dam washed out at 7:30 last night. The wood structure held up fine but the rise in water from the storm was able to push through the gravel and rock that were underneath our bottom logs. I think that there were some large stumps buried in the gravel and once they began to move they opened up a hole (Mark actually watched a couple pop through under the dam). The hole under the center span appears to go all the way down to bed rock and is about 6 ft below the bottom of the logs as best Mark and I could tell by poking with a pickpole. As you probably noticed, the brook is full and while the lake itself is still pretty full it will be dropping over the next few days since we effectively have a 20-ft long 6-ft tall hole under the dam.

Mark and I have the beginnings of a repair plan. We will probably need to wait a few days for the water to come down a bit. We will probably need four other volunteers sometime in the middle of the week (Tuesday or Wednesday) during the day so if you are strong, hale and hearty and free during the day let me know.

Of course I am very disappointed by the breach but this was the part we had little control over since we couldn't dig down into the stream bed and didn't know what was there. I hope we will be able to fix the problem and get back to the nice levels we were enjoying the past couple weeks. On the brighter side – the canton fire department did a great job monitoring the stream levels and the condition of all the downstream bridges and the emergency management plan worked well. Let the firemen know how much we appreciate their efforts as you see them around town. Also, the timbers and steel that we put in held up fine which is good news. In addition, it appears the bedrock is not very deep at that location which will be useful in constructing a permanent dam.

The lake level went higher than I intended and I hope it didn't cause anyone any problems. Thank you for your patience.

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Mac.