

Core Group Meeting
July 20, 2009

Present: Mac Ray, Jackie Conant, Judy Hamilton, Debi Hutchins, Dave Bowen, Rob Turnbull, Polly Bussiere, Mitzie Turnbull and Mary Standard, Sun Journal.

Temporary dam - Current water level in the lake seems to be about the same as the 1996 WLMP summer target levels for the old dam. No progress on a NRPA permit has been made to change the temporary dam to a permanent dam allowing us to remove only a few boards from the current structure instead of the entire dam as required for a "temporary dam".

Another work session would be useful to cut saplings on the left embankment seed/mulch or riprap the work area embankment and begin a general clean up of the property. DEP permit by rule may be necessary to do this. Removing the old dam was also discussed but timing is in question for several reasons:

- The old dam is grandfathered and if we had problems with new permanent structure permits, we may need to fall back to repair of the old dam.
- If the property is cleaned up and volunteer efforts moved forward on revitalizing these two properties, the old dam structure may stand in vivid contrast and help us with federal funding.
- Costs, associated with removal of the old dam, are expected to be a part of any federal funding package.

Brownfields Assessment - Janet Pelletier, AVCOG Community/Environmental Planner, has requested specific ownership information as well as land use history of the dam properties. AVCOG was awarded a \$200K EPA Brownsfields Assessment grant to inventory old industrial or commercial properties in the AVCOG region and select properties to conduct Site Assessments. The inventory portion of this grant requires a detailed database of each site to be considered in the Brownfields program. According to Bob Thompson, AVCOG, a "bill of health" will be necessary to secure federal funds. Judy agreed to follow up and get the requested data to AVCOG.

AVCOG search for federal funds - The final statement for CDBG funding has not yet been received and will be forwarded to the core group as soon as AVCOG receives it. Until then, Bob Thompson is encouraging us to continue to look at the bigger picture including clean up and visions of what the community would like to see on the dam properties. These visions, ideas and aspirations will help us in the process of fundraising whether for federal funds, matching funds or event fundraising for the dam project.

Kleinschmidt Preliminary Report - Kevin Cooley has promised to get the final version of the Preliminary Report to Canton soon. It is not expected to be much different from the last draft received this spring. It will be useful in applying for federal funding and only the first step in the engineering design process for a new or repaired permanent dam.

Boat Ramp - Jackie Conant has emailed Sen. Bryant regarding use of the dam properties for a public boat ramp. We would like to have Sen. Bryant attend one of our core group meetings to discuss the feasibility. No reply has yet been received.

The Rebeccas, owners of the old railroad station and abutters to the dam property, should be consulted with any plans for use of the dam lot on their side of the brook. Traffic patterns to a boat ramp would impact their property rights. Perhaps we should ask for their representation at core group meetings.

Lake association fundraising - Another Super Raffle drawing is scheduled for August 9th to select winners of five new prizes valued at \$200 +/- each. Tickets (\$5 each or 6 for \$20) are being sold and we are encouraging everyone to help in these sales to benefit the LAA Dam Fund.

The lake association is also sponsoring an expanded version of Lake Days, Saturday, August 8th on the Hartford Town Beach to include all residents of both Canton and Hartford. This is a way of continuing the "community" efforts apparent with the temporary dam installation and repair and a way for both towns to celebrate the return of normal water levels as one big community. There will be a special raffle of prizes donated by local businesses and individuals, sale of hot dogs and sodas (or bring your own picnic items), beach volleyball (Dave suggested using the Pine Shores court on their beach), horseshoes, croquet, children's games, boat decorating contest, and ample opportunity to share some fun with friends, family and neighbors. The LAA board has voted to dedicate all proceeds from this year's Lake Days to the LAA Dam Fund.

Thompson Lake enquiry - Polly reported that Thompson Lake is having difficulties with water levels and has attempted to find out more about our experience in this matter.

Eminent domain check - Has not been cashed as yet. MMA is being consulted to see if there is anything in the statutes that might help Canton in closing this matter.

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 3rd at the Canton Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary