

Core Group Meeting
August 17, 2009

Present: Mac Ray, Rob Turnbull, Polly Bussiere, Judy Hamilton, Herb Harding, Gene Grouleau, Ray Bussiere, Mary Atwater and Mary Standard.

Temporary Dam - Water levels continue to be close to the old normal levels. Mac replaced one 20' log leaving one 8' log still out of the short bay. Majority of folks are quite satisfied by the water levels as managed by the temporary dam this summer.

Stocking the lake with fish has not been done since 2007 when dam was ordered open. Now, with the temporary dam in place, plans for making the temporary dam permanent and the possibility of a public boat ramp on the dam property, the issue of stocking the lake should be addressed. Polly and Ray Bussiere agreed to draft a letter to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [IF&W], over the Canton and Hartford select boards' signatures, requesting re-establishing the stocking of the lake as before.

Notice of Violation [NOV] from DEP dated July 24th issued to Canton is posted on the lake association website [www.lakeanasagunticook.org]. Erosion control measures were taken immediately after receipt of the NOV. Mac sent a response to DEP and the Canton Select Board has requested a pre-application meeting with DEP for the purpose of applying for permits to change the status of the temporary dam to a permanent structure. This would allow for only some of the logs to be removed in the fall instead of the entire dam and allow more time for seeking a permanent solution.

No date as yet has been set for this meeting but it is believed the meeting will take place in Augusta on a Friday or Monday in the not too distant future. Mac would like to have both select boards represented at this meeting along with him, Mike Poulin in his capacity as the core group's legal advisor and as many of our congressional representatives (Sen. Bryant, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Hayes) as can attend. As soon as the meeting has been scheduled, notification will be sent out requesting a community delegation in support of this application.

Financial Report - Lake Days was a success, according to Judy, and the hope is to build this into a regular celebration of the lake community to include both Canton and Hartford residents. The lake association board voted to have the proceeds from this year's event go into the LAA Dam Fund. The Super Raffle proceeds were \$1,635, which enhanced the LAA Dam Fund to \$12,000+. Total of all four funds for the dam is currently just under \$29,000. Community event fundraisers will continue.

Canton select board has agreed to have Canton join AVCOG and that membership should be completed soon. When it is, Judy will contact Bob Thompson to find out what preparations are needed to complete a CDBG application this winter. An income study by the water district and a Phase I Brownfields survey are at least two of these items. An open gathering of ideas for the dam properties will be scheduled for early October. Judy will ask AVCOG officials to join us at our regular core group meeting on September 14th to make plans for moving forward with the CDBG application. Rural Water officials have also expressed a willingness to discuss grant options with us.

Whitney Brook survey is scheduled for September 25th organized by Sue Gammon, Canton resident and Oxford Co. Soil & Water official. Along with state technical support, a survey of the brook (from the dam downstream to the Cross St. bridge) will begin at the Canton Town Office at 9 a.m. Mac, Polly and Judy will represent the lake and core group to assist in the survey to assess the needs downstream of the dam. Possible restoration activities will be scheduled as a result. The core group will assist and seek support from the lake association as well. It is important that the dam project continue to be a community-building event and not let varying interests become divisive.

Work day has been scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. Polly and Judy will work on a list of equipment needed and solicit volunteers. The two lots need to be brush-hogged and an army, with hand-held brush cutters, is needed to cut brush along the banks from the water district property to route 108.

Plans are being made to remove the old trailer. If the pre-application meeting takes place before Sept. 12th, we may also be able to begin removal of the super structure on the old dam. Materials will be saved for possible use in constructing a bridge over the temporary dam to aid in the removal and replacement of logs in the dam and provide a snowmobile crossing. Polly, secretary of the snowmobile club, will ask this group to work on construction plans for a bridge. We also need Sen. Bryant's assistance in pursuing the building of a public boat ramp on the property.

Water quality of the Mill Pond was questioned. It was suggested that water quality monitoring of the Mill Pond, similar to what Tom Hamilton has been doing on the lake, might be useful if there is someone willing to be trained and perform regular testing. Rob Turnbull will contact Mr. Hamilton.

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 31st at the Canton Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary