

Dam Project Update October 2010

A permanent resolution of dam safety and water level issues on Lake Anasagunticook is in sight. The Lake Anasagunticook Assn. capital campaign, launched in June, has raised approximately \$80,000 in cash and pledges to bridge the gap between the \$500,000 grant from the State and the estimated \$651,000 to construct a new permanent dam. Appropriations from both Canton and Hartford have been expended and facilitated considerable progress in the dam project over the last three years.

Recently, there has been an expansion of the dam project to include a public boat ramp, municipal park and green space on the properties adjacent to the dam in the center of Canton. These properties were once used by the former Brindis Leather Company tannery operation and DEP is partnering with Canton to provide a "clean bill of health" through a Brownfields assessment. A Phase I: historical records search was completed in May 2010 and Phase II: sampling which identified contaminants (poly aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic and lead) was completed in July. The Brownfields assessment was performed by MACTEC through a grant from Maine DEP. A Brownfields is required for public reuse of these properties and DEP hired Ransom Environmental Consultants to produce a focus feasibility study for remedial action. CThe proposed plan for cleanup of contaminated soils is a marker barrier and at least 8" cover of clean soil along with deed restrictions for the property. A public meeting was held at the Canton Municipal Building on October 11th as part of an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant proposal for \$200,000 with a \$59,000 in kind match. The match will provided through use of clean fill from the town's sand pit, volunteers to help landscape of green spaces, and partnering with Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [IF&W] to provide a public boat launch and adequate parking, which will provide an ideal cover barrier.

Other benefits from a partnership with IF&W are an increase fish stocking of the lake, a location favored to prevent an infestation of invasive aquatic plants and maintenance of the site into the future. Clean up and reinvestment in this property will protect the public, the environment and reduce blight.

Regardless of the cleanup grant, construction plans for the new dam will continue as scheduled. Excavation of contaminated soils will be addressed in the NRPA permit for the new dam and will soon be submitted to DEP. Ninety days is allowed for State agency review and a response. Preparation for and bid process during the spring would allow an early June 2011 ground breaking for the new dam.

EPA cleanup grants will be awarded in the spring 2011 and the cleanup and revitalization of the dam properties including the boat ramp will continue once financing is secured. The Advisory Committee continues to meet every other Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Town Office. The public is always welcome and encouraged to participate in this joint community effort.

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary, CDBG Advisory Committee