

Dam Advisory Committee
January 16, 2012

In attendance: Mac Ray, Scotty Kilbreth, Nick Sabatine, Gary Dougherty, Colby Davis, Gene Groleau, Marc Blanchette, Judy Hamilton, Biff Atwater, Bill Gray, Mitzie and Rob Turnbull, Polly Bussiere, Jackie Conant, Leon Bucher, Carolyn Gray

Wish list for the dam properties: The following suggestions were considered and placed on the dam property drawing. The EPA grant will cover \$200,000 for costs associated with excavation of contaminated soils, earth moving, marker barrier, cover system and landscaping of the dam property south of Whitney Brook. IF&W boat ramp project will also be excavating as well as paving and gravel surfacing parking and roadways to the boat ramp. Once a total wish list is produced, the engineers from the two projects will confer and decide which project funding will cover which costs. The items below on the wish list will then be prioritized based on the EPA grant and IF&W guidelines and requirements. At that point, Canton will know how much from the wish list will be covered and what will be left for the Town to fund.

Wish list for the remaining projects:

- Dam property on the north side (Rt 140 side) of Whitney Brook did not contain levels of contamination requiring remediation; therefore, EPA funding will NOT cover any activities on the north side of the brook.
- The Town will try to sell the portions of the dam properties between the old dam and route 108 on both sides of the brook. There is the desire to move any contaminated soils from the portion to be sold to the area for the boat ramp where it will be covered, thus leaving the portion to be sold free of restrictions.
- Elevations of the portion to be sold may remain lower than the portion the town will retain for the boat ramp. Rock and/or trees could mark the property line.
- The riprap on the stream bank of the portion to be sold could be reduced, terraced and/or vegetated getting rid of the sumac and weeds now embedded in the old riprap.
- The dam property to be used for the boat ramp and parking area upstream of the old dam on the south side of Whitney Brook will have contaminated soils buried under a marker barrier and cover system. The largest portion of this property to remain in municipal ownership and under an easement to IF&W will be a parking lot, road access and boat ramp, which will be paved or graveled depending upon available funds.
- Snowmobile trail access from the old railroad bed will follow along property line between the old railroad station and the property to be sold and across route 108 as before. ITS 89 will connect to the bridge near the boat ramp.
- The ADA parking will need to be moved out of the snowmobile access to the bridge to the other side of the boat ramp.
- The dry hydrant and pull through for the Fire Dept. pumper should be near and just upstream of the boat ramp.
- IF&W must make sure that 10-12 spaces for vehicles with boat trailers are provided for anglers. Another 4-6 spaces for cars only could be worked into the parking lot plans as part of the cover system.
- The space upstream of the boat ramp is primarily clear of contamination and should remain tree covered.

- There is a portable toilet in the drawings which might be better moved to the upstream side of the boat ramp along with the ADA parking and fire dept. pull through for the dry hydrant.
- A walkway of pavers could connect the parking area and bridge along the brook to a focal point, possibly a gazebo, near the old dam and from there to the other end of the parking area. Along this walkway, trees provided by Project Canopy, benches and plaques commemorating donations could be placed. The walkway could also continue along the top of the embankment on the north side as well but that cannot be covered by the EPA funds.
- Cost of the walkway could be covered by the EPA grant as part of the cover system. At any time, these pavers could be engraved for donations to the dam project or further development of the dam property.
- An anonymous donor has offered a flag and pole. This could be placed in the green space between the parking lot and boat ramp access road or in the area near the gazebo and the old dam.
- Conduit should be laid in the ground at this time for electricity supply to the gazebo, to illuminate the flag and parking area. This would most likely not be covered by either grant but may be needed at a later date. It was suggested that a donation of conduit might be sought.
- Commemoration of donations to the lake association capital campaign has not yet been determined. Plaques embedded in rock or engraving of a granite slab or granite benches is being considered as well as engraving of bricks in a vertical wall. Engraving of pavers has not been ruled out. The lake association is planning a series of plaques based on the size and nature of donations.
- A rock wall along the town/Turnbull property line to delineate the trail from the bridge to parking on the north side of Whitney Brook would also restrict access across private property.
- Questions raised in discussion –
 - Where does the water line go which passes under the bridge near Mac Ray’s building? Was it included in the Brownfield Study? This may be a dig safe issue. Nick Sabatine will look into this.
 - Who owns the dirt triangle/”water hole” between the town office and the old railroad station building?

Next meeting will be a public meeting scheduled for Monday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building. Ransom has nearly completed a Community Action plan required for the EPA grant. It must be available for public review and comment for 30 days. A public meeting, following prescribed advertising, will present the remediation plan for contaminated soils including the proposed cover systems. These cover systems can include many of the design requests on the wish list as developed tonight. The public meeting would gather any last minute suggestions to be added to the design phase.

Next step: By the end of February or early March at the latest, Ransom engineers and Kevin Cooley, engineer for IF&W, will meet to work out elevations, who will pay for what and develop cost estimates for all items on the wish list. From this, Ransom will prepare bid package and move forward to the hiring of construction contractors by early April. It appears that we are still on target for construction to begin once the ground is thawed in the spring.

Brief Dam Update – The dam construction project is complete with the exception of installing the lifting hardware which is back ordered and grass seeding. Bowman will return to take care of these in the spring.

There were questions about the status of the Notice of Violation from DEP. Representatives Terry Hayes and Sheryl Briggs agreed to talk with the Commissioner of DEP. Canton has completed all requests and requirements made by DEP and the NOV. Mac wants to make sure that the NOV is taken care of well before Ransom and IF&W submit Permit by Rule application for their respective projects. The concern is that DEP will continue to interfere with progress.

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton