

**From:** Judy Hamilton <mafinch@megalink.net>  
**Subject:** 6/27 meeting in Hartford  
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I am taking it upon myself to report on my understanding of what happened at last night's meeting. I do this as a concerned individual who attended the meeting to keep the lake assn. Board of Directors informed among other reasons. If anyone else reading this email feels my summary is incomplete or needs correcting, please do so by REPLY ALL to this email.

Last night (6/27), approximately 35 people met at the Hartford Town Hall to hear a proposal from Rob Turnbull, Herb Harding, and David Bragg for a temporary dam just above the currently open dam. The proposal involves a sandbag/concrete slab structure across 120'-130' between the Turnbells and the Water District properties. It was anticipated to need four to five feet in height to bring the water level in the lake up two to three feet from it's current level.

The proposal calls for the use of sandbags (3000# and smaller ones) in front of concrete blocks (I cannot remember the specific name given) to span about 130' and to a yet unspecified height. An excavator would be used to put these materials in place and the surface from the water district road across the stream bed would have to be prepped to hold the excavator as it places the concrete and sandbags starting on the Turnbull side and works back to the opposite bank.

There were questions about what kind of DEP permit would be necessary and Michael Ranhoff volunteered his assistance and that of Att. Mike Poulin and a contact they have at DEP to help Mr. Turnbull complete the permit application. Contractor and Hartford resident, David Bragg agreed to draw and describe the project to accompany the application with the assistance of Paul Bernier and a friend of his who is an engineer. These individuals are moving forward to complete the permit application process.

Don Hutchins and John Cronin, representatives from the Water District, gave their support for any proposal to stabilize the water level but voiced their concerns as well. They cannot act for the water district because the authority is with the Trustees and they need to meet first before signing an application for a permit or taking ownership of any kind. While the town and water district are exempt from liabilities that private individuals and the lake assn must face, the water district needs to consult their attorney and be assured that this project is properly done. The effectiveness of this proposed structure was not known and the hope is that DEP or a local engineer can give us a more "expert" opinion to back the permit application.

Some materials and equipment have apparently been donated and the cost anticipated by David Bragg is \$5,000 to put this temporary dam in place. A proposal will need to be drawn/described for the temporary removal of part of this dam in the fall and most likely DEP or MEMA will require an emergency plan for dealing with the possibility of heavy rains while this structure is in place. The costs involved for removal and replacement were not included in this estimate.

Obviously, funding is also going to become an issue if the application is approved and a permit issued. Jackie Conant, Canton Selectperson, agreed to ask the town of Canton to establish a fund specifically to hold donations for finding temporary and permanent solutions to stabilizing the lake water levels. Again, Canton's liability in financially supporting a dam structure is limited where individuals and the lake assn. may not be.

Individuals are moving forward on this temporary dam proposal which will take time and still may not bring the water level up much this summer without rain but it could help in not facing the same situations again next spring and could help stabilize water levels until a permanent solution is found. Representatives from the Towns of Canton and Hartford, the Canton Water District and the Lake Anasagunticook Association need to work together to address the growing number of questions and issues around finding a permanent solution. These entities have the authority to represent each of us in this ongoing crisis and, some more than others, have the power and authority with the State to act. These individual representatives have no power or authority without the backing of their constituents, however. I feel that this combined group of representatives should meet soon and start the process to move forward to support short-term efforts and to find a permanent solution. Along the way, each of us should be kept informed by our representatives as to the process and progress made and there should also be a way for each of us to give personal input for consideration as well.

Judy Hamilton