

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
BARNET DAM COMMITTEE
3 PM September 29, 2022

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a consensus for a project concept upon which to proceed for improvements to Harvey Lake Dam (HLD) to present to the Selectboard for approval.

Attending: Members of the Dam Committee including Don Easter, George Coppentrath, Joe Mangiapane, and Red Dufresne. Dylan Ford could not make the meeting.

Items discussed:

1. The draft minutes of the 8-6-22 meeting with Ben Green and Steve Hanna were modified and accepted as final. These minutes are attached.
2. Our options to proceed were briefly discussed. The alternatives included:
 - a. Cease efforts to improve the dam and allow the dam remains in its current condition. This alternative was discarded unanimously.
 - b. Enlist support of legislative representatives to assist in allowing the previously identified maintenance items to be completed locally without a permit. This alternative was discarded at this time as it seemed crucial that we needed to submit a Dam Alteration Permit (DAP) application and then if denied, we may recommend this alternative be pursued at that time.
 - c. Proceed with legal assistance to seek approval to complete these items locally without a permit. This alternative was discarded at this time for the same reason. However, there may be some support even from Dam Safety Program (DSP) staff to define maintenance items as part of their new regulations to allow minor improvements to proceed more efficiently but this seemed to appear to be a long-drawn-out process. However, since the meeting I talked with another engineer with experience in working with DSP staff and he indicated there is no definition in their regulations of what requires a DAP and what does not. It is just what they feel like telling you which differs from project to project.
 - d. George suggested another alternative which would entail the state taking ownership of the existing dam if there are safeguards built into the agreement that the state would make improvements to be completed by 2025 and to conduct operations as necessary to hold existing lake level at current levels. We felt that this would likely entail breaching the existing dam and another dam at the lake outlet channel near the east side of the town beach. Joe and George recalled that the state seemed to prefer this location more so that the "riffle" location. But at any rate this would be up to the state if they agree to obtain ownership with the lake level requirements. This alternative could be explored in parallel with the DAP application for conceptual review. If the state agreed to the conditions, i.e., dam removal by date certain with lake level maintained that alternative would be the least expensive option for the Town.
 - e. File a Dam Alteration Permit (DAP) for improvements to the HLD for either i. or ii. described below:

- i. The project items we identified that we hoped would not require a DAP which included (items in bold do not require a DAP):
 - Replace the stop boards with an automatic gate.
 - Cut off the east wall of the fish ladder at the same elevation as the dam crest.
 - **Install some grating and handrails to increase safety during maintenance activities and inspections**
 - Repair or replace the bottom drain gate, stem, and **stanchion** and install a trash rack upstream of the bottom drain gate
- ii. A larger project which would include all of the items listed above with an additional larger crest gate, flip gates, or a bladder to allow more water to spill below the dam during large storm events rather than back up into Harvey Lake. The improvements would include diversion baffles upstream of the dam to better direct streamflow to utilize the entire dam and to minimize erosion on the west upstream side of the dam and to minimize siltation on the east upstream side of the dam. Also as part of the project, the silt would be removed to the extent previously performed under the Fairbanks Mill project if the other project improvements are part of the project to assure silt deposition will be minimized. Finally, the project would include erosion protection measures on the east side of the downstream area to minimize erosion once the fish ladder wall was lowered.

The Dam Safety Program (DSP) staff have offered to meet to discuss “permit challenges” for such a project (either i. or ii.) as a first step. DSP staff would require the Town retain an engineering firm for submittals and analysis.

3. Red started discussion and reported that after consideration, he was in favor of alternative 2.e.i which held the best chance of getting something done without incurring significant costs in design and permitting. But he indicated if this was completed the likelihood of a larger project in the future was remote.
4. Joe and George agreed that a DAP application should be submitted but that we should include everything and let the state tell us if it needed to be trimmed down.
5. After discussion, there was consensus reached on providing a recommendation to the selectboard on the following:
 - a. Discuss the meeting minutes with Dylan as she could not attend today’s meeting. Dylan has some information regarding the option of state ownership and project detail for ownership transition for a dam project in Fairlee, VT.
 - b. Meet with the board to discuss a status report and to present the consensus recommendation as follows:
 - i. Meet with DSP staff to ascertain the specific items required to obtain a dam alteration permit to include all the items listed above in item 2.e.ii. Depending on these discussions, perhaps trim down the project to increase the probability of approval and reduce costs.
 - ii. Initiate discussion with the State to determine if there is any interest in the state taking ownership of the HLD conditioned on a scheduled completion date and mandatory lake level controls.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

