

**MINUTES – SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015**

Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. at The Cabins on Harvey's Lake, 190 Campers Lane, Barnet.

Board members present: Gary Bunnell, and Dylan Ford.

Others present: Steven Adler, Michael Bystraycki, Robert Desrochers, Richard Downer, Susan Jensen, Patrick Ross, and Lois White.

1. On-site meeting to review the limits of work involved in removal of flood debris, sediment, and associated vegetation blocking the spillway of the Harvey's Lake Dam

- Robert Desrochers clarified that the point of meeting was to review with Patrick Ross the limits of the excavation behind the Harvey's Lake Dam.
- The permit issued is to remove the sediment behind the West Barnet Garage along the South Peacham brook back towards the lake so as to expose the full line of the spillway of the dam. This process buys some time to figure out the other backflow issues and time to think about what to do in the future. It will essentially lessen the impact of future rain or storm events.
- Steve Bushman at Dam Safety wants to make sure the low level gate is flushed, maintained and kept at operating condition. Therefore, the elevation of the stream needs to be at the low gate level. Right now it is not. The elevation is closer now to the stop logs elevation. This is the first of a three stage process. The second stage in this process is to discuss placement of a new dam nearer the lake and alteration, removal or lowering the current dam. The third step in the process would be to excavate out the artificial oxbows back up towards the South Peacham Brook to mimic the natural curves of the brook.
- Patrick Ross reiterated that all this permit really does is make the dam more operable much more like it was when it was built. It just provides a little more storage behind the dam. Surrounding landowners may see a little improvement during the big flows around the stream, but the land will not be significantly impacted.
- The group discussed whether there might be a way to keep from having to redo the permit annually or biennially. Only small amounts of silt may be removed annually in attempts at maintenance of the structure, but otherwise this is a one-time permit. The next step, dam alteration, is a much larger, more rigorous process.
- Robert Desrochers believes that the only way to begin this process is to separate vertically the lake control function. If we can get the South Peacham Brook lower than the lake we can control the lake level and the backflow.
- Dr. Downer expressed the importance of documenting with photographs every 2-5 years and tracking the progress.
- Meeting resumed at the water's edge at the campground site. The material to be removed from the dam is significant. The group examined the limits of the dam and the extent of the material removal. Behind the West Barnet Garage the group discussed removing enough material to create a stream width of about 80 feet.
- The machines required to truck the removed material out will need to be large capacity vehicles. Our next step is to contact Shannon Morrison of the Wetlands Department and inform her of our plans. We need to immediately remove the material so as not to encroach on the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers. The cost is estimated to be around \$100,000.00 plus.

- In consideration of the property owners on the lake, the ability to get vehicles to the site, Fish and Wildlife, and the weather, we will look at a start date sometime after Labor Day.

2. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk