

APPROVED: August 25, 2014

TRI-TOWN SELECTBOARDS MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2014 at 5:30pm.
West Fairlee Town Offices

Agenda

Update and Action Plans for Lake Fairlee Dam

Attendees: Nancy Andus (Tri-Town Committee), Beverly Jo Ash (West Fairlee Selectboard), Cory Austin (West Fairlee Selectboard), John Bacon (Thetford Selectboard), Skip Brown (West Fairlee, Tri-Town Committee, Lake Fairlee Association), Fred Cook (West Fairlee Selectboard), Marilyn E. Couture-Dresser (West Fairlee Selectboard), Donn Downey (Thetford Selectboard), Jessica Eaton (Thetford Selectboard), Kimberly Edgar (Administrative Assistant to Thetford Selectboard), Delsie Hoyt (West Fairlee Selectboard), Mike Pomeroy (Thetford Selectboard), and Stuart Rogers (Thetford Selectboard)

Call to Order to 5:39pm. by Delsie Hoyt.

Summary of the Saturday, August 9, 2014 Public Meeting on Lake Fairlee Dam Renovation Meeting

- * The dam is most likely to fail through cracks created by freezing and thawing conditions vs. a complete breach.
- * The Gregory Family controls the ownership of the dam and their relationship with Tri-Towns appears to be positive. The Gregory Family is willing to give the Tri-Towns the dam in exchange for being able to keep their house where it is right now. Keeping the house during the rebuilt and repair process would involve providing them with a new foundation for their house.
- * As a generality, VT is not issuing new permits to construct new dams, so the recommended direction is to ask for the current dam to be rebuilt and repaired. The engineering firm would work with VT on obtaining the needed state permits for rebuilding and repairing the dam.
- * The Tri-Towns obtain significant tax revenue (approximately \$60 million in property value) from the properties surrounding Lake Fairlee.
- * If the dam is breached, properties surrounding Lake Fairlee would have approximately 10ft. to 200ft. of state-owned mud flat between their property and the lake's edge. If the value of the property around the lake is lowered, it would impact the grand lists of all three towns, increasing property tax bills between \$90 and \$210 on a \$250,000 property value.
- * The rebuilt and replace dam project is estimated to cost \$750,000, with the estimate of \$20 to \$60 costs on property taxes based on a \$250,000 property value. The construction period is planned for June/July, 2015 for approximately 6 weeks. The life expectancy of the rebuilt and repair dam is 70 to 100 years.
- * The plan is for each town to ask the voters in March, 2015 for approval of their own bond to their portion (Thetford (47%), Fairlee (35%), and West Fairlee (18%) the costs to rebuild and

repair the dam. Each town would be responsible for their own debt.

- * Jack Candon's legal advice is for the Tri-Towns to enter into an Intralocal Agreement for the ownership of the dam and ongoing preventive maintenance of the dam.
- * Approximately 40 to 50 people attended the public meeting.

Three Additional Public Meetings Proposed

- * Plan is to hold weeknight public meetings in each town over the course of approximately a week during the end of September/October, 2014 Timeframe.
- * Ideas were discussed on how to promote the project to the Tri-Towns Communities.

Adjournment at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly S. Edgar
Selectboard Administrative Assistant