

To: Those Concerned
From: Gerry Nelson, Bob Drew
Subject; CUSHMAN POND DAM

CUSHMAN POND DAM

An e-mail message, dated Wed. Jan. 24, 2007, documented a discussion at a Town of Lovell Budget Committee meeting concerning the Cushman Pond Dam. This message stated that the reason the dam needs to be replaced is to keep milfoil fragments from escaping from the pond. This statement was accurate, however it is incomplete, inasmuch as there are other equally compelling reasons for dam replacement that have guided this project since its inception.

The objectives of the Cushman Pond Dam project, established originally and currently being adhered to as the various design, specification and permitting phases proceed, are as follows;

- 1- Re-establish the pond outlet area, where the granite blocks and grating presently exist, in a manner that will resist ice damage and will not permit water flow except through a controlled opening or gate. (Much of the outflow from the pond now by-passes the old dam structure along many feet of the adjacent shoreline whenever there is a significant storm event or heavy runoff.)
- 2- Design and install a water level control system that will provide a means of maximizing the utilization of the available water supply for the greatest health of the pond. (This will be comprised of a stop-log system and possibly a small screw operated gate.)
- 3- Establish optimum water levels and a management strategy. (Water levels in the pond are now estimated to be approx. one foot below levels established long ago. This is due to erosion of the gravel spillway originally installed, along with leakage around tree roots and boulders in front of the dam area.)
- 4- Control strategy and mechanism to prevent the escape of milfoil fragments to the outlet brook. (Two rows of easily damaged netting suspended on rebar are now maintained to prevent escape of milfoil fragments. The new dam will have stainless wire mesh screens across approx. fifteen feet of spillway opening to catch any milfoil fragments.)

It should be uppermost in every taxpayer's mind that shoreline properties on the six water bodies in the Town of Lovell provide over 80 % of the Town's annual revenues.

Every taxpayer has a stake in insuring that any activity, or condition that may in any way degrade any of those elements that impact shoreline property values, receive careful scrutiny and that corrective action is taken. The penalty for allowing things to happen that reduce shoreline property values will inevitably result in tax burden shifting, and the result will be rising taxes for all other property owners and residents.

Cushman Pond is being progressively degraded because of the failed dam and the invasive plant infestation. The replacement dam, designed by a professional small dam engineer, will re-establish this pond as a valuable Town resource.

In accordance with Town policy in matters of significant financial impact, public hearings will provide an opportunity for all concerned to become fully informed about the Cushman Pond Dam project, to express their opinions pro or con, and to discuss any viable alternative course of action.

Gerry Nelson, Chair, Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee
Bob Drew, Chair, Lovell Board of Selectmen

Mar. 16, 2007