

**WOPWA Special Report**  
**Summary of Meeting about Dam Repair**  
**June ??, 2015**

Bob Maloney and Galen Beach met with Walter Johnson about dam repairs in late June

The White Oak Pond dam is in need of repair.

Wood components need to be replaced as they have eroded near the bottom and side. The fasteners for these components have to be drilled out and replaced.

Barry Eastman is expected to do the work as a contractor for the Town, possibly with Kevin Coburn (sp). Kevin is employed by the town and has the necessary experience and is also backed up by the Town's Liability policy. The drawdown necessary to perform the repairs was originally slated to begin after Labor Day, as per past instructions by WOPWA membership relative to drawing down the pond for any other reasons.

Walter Johnson, (The Town) stated that WOPWA has the riparian rights and can decide the timing of the drawdown by a vote of the membership and submitted to the town. In order to draw the pond fully down, conforming to DES guidelines of the rate of flow, as well as consideration of minimal impact to pond life in terms of refilling before freezing temperatures set in and allowing for the time required for repairs, **it is the advice of the WOPWA Board that drawdown commence in the first week(s) of August.** This may allow for unforeseen weather events like excessive rainfall, construction delays and so forth, both before and after repairs take place.

The pond has undergone two substantial draw downs within a short period of time; first to inspect the dam in the late fall of 2014, and again in early spring 2015 to inspect two culverts: one that runs under Rte 3 and a catch-basin culvert that runs under the Rothschild's property into the larger culvert. It was not possible to observe the DES guidelines relative to timing and rate of flow. The impact on the flora and fauna and water quality is yet to be determined. Avoiding another winter freeze at low water levels would be desirable.

The two culverts are also in need of repair and Walter Johnson has provided WOPWA with pictures from the inspection. There are a number of issues outstanding relative to repair of the culverts. Mr. Johnson stated that if the dam is repaired as planned and the work on the culverts is delayed, no major drawdown of the pond will be necessary to repair the culverts. It is unlikely that all repairs could be performed at the same time as the DOT, the State, the DES, engineers and appropriate contractors have yet to be aligned.

The first order of business for the WOPWA membership is to vote on the timing of the drawdown for dam repairs. The general opinion of the Board is that a long view could be adopted with regard to the continuing health of the pond and its flora and fauna in favor of a temporary inconvenience to tourism and visitors by beginning the draw down earlier than usual. Please forward any questions you have to Bob Maloney prior to the annual meeting which is schedule for Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Holderness Historical Society behind the Post Office. Doors will open at 8:30 for coffee and stuff and everyone is asked to bring "stuff" to go with the coffee and tea. In addition, our local artisans will be displaying their wares. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM

Walter Johnson has been asked to join us and if he can attend, he will be our opening speaker as he will be heading south shortly thereafter. In addition, we will have a surprise panel of esteemed speakers on a fun subject for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Beach