

Lake Wyola Dam Study Committee
January 11, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Present: Eric Stocker, Mary David, Howard Kinder, John Kinder, Glenn Stockman (guest)
Ryan Zaharula (guest)

Actions Taken: Committee voted unanimously to appoint Eric as chairman and John as secretary

Discussions:

Public access and usage of the Dam property:

After many opinions and thoughts were offered about who should have access to the Dam property, and what activities should be allowed on the Dam property, the general consensus among committee members at this time is that safety issues dictate that the area should have new usage restrictions put in place. These restrictions would mean that the Dam property would no longer be open to the public for fishing, swimming, boat launching, picnicking or other recreational use, and access to the property would be restricted to authorized persons only.

Additional discussions included enforcement of these proposed restrictions to possibly include signage, fencing and Shutesbury police involvement.

Official access for operation and maintenance of the Dam:

As current access to the Dam requires travel over property owned by abutter (Ryan Zaharula) discussions included possible options to allow official access to the property for Dam Keeper operational duties, and for future maintenance and upkeep of the Dam. Howard offered measurements of necessary area to allow maintenance equipment access. Ryan stated his preference would be to retain ownership of his current property, and to grant official access only. Further discussions concluded that it might be best to talk with Shutesbury town law counselor about best possible options for guaranteed future access to the Dam property.

The committee decided that these issues required an in-person visit to the Dam so as to gain best perspective and offer proper opinion and recommendations to the selectboard on all of the above issues.

It was agreed to meet again Tuesday Jan 17th at 2 PM at the Wyola Dam.