

## **QUESTION AND ANSWERS MAY 2021 STM Article 18**

### **Article 7**

#### **Appropriate for Rosemary Dam Decommissioning**

**Question: First a clarification of the location of the dam. Both the Select Board presentation and the Finance Committee presentation describe the location of the dam as being along Rosemary Street, which is at the outflow of Rosemary Lake. However, the Finance Committee presentation goes on to describe the original purpose of the dam as to regulate the flow of water from Rosemary Brook into the lake, and further states that the dam has not been operational for years. There is an old dam along Rosemary Brook (near the intersection of Nehoiden Street and Blacksmith Drive) which is upstream from the lake and therefore seems to fit the historical description of the dam in the Finance Committee presentation. Is that the dam in question?**

Answer: Rosemary dam (really an embankment) starts approximately at the intersection of Rosemary Street and Hillside Avenue and extends 440 feet toward Tillotson Road. It includes both sidewalks and the roadway itself, which is 40 feet wide. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts classifies this as a high hazard dam. Sometime prior to the 1967, there was a Dam at Rosemary Pond at this location. The area was filled in when it was developed. Because this work predated any permitting requirement for fill, there is no record showing that the Dam was removed. Therefore the Office of Dam Safety assumes that the Dam is still there. The Dam is rated High Hazard because of the apartment complex located downstream.

**Question: Does the \$30,000 requested in this article call for any physical work to be done on the dam or is the purpose only for studies, reports and plans leading to a hearing with the Commonwealth? If the Commonwealth eventually approves decommissioning, would there then be additional funding requested at a future Town Meeting for work to be done on the dam, or additional paperwork, to complete the decommissioning process? Approximately how much would that additional work cost?**

Answer: Decommissioning will include the preparation of engineering reports, plans, and studies of the Rosemary Lake embankment and documentation needed for the Town to request a reclassification hearing with the Commonwealth. No physical work or additional funding will be required if the Commonwealth agrees to decommission the dam.

**Question: Please provide more details supporting the justification of appropriating \$30,000 for the current article as a cost-saving measure. What are the yearly costs associated with leaving the status of the dam unchanged?**

Answer: The Town has been preparing the biannual inspection reports in-house. The State has recently required that the Town obtain an outside engineering firm to complete the report, which we estimate will cost \$25,000 per report. The Town is also subject to fines of up to \$5,000 per day for failing to file the appropriate content in a timely manner. The requested funding will enable the Town to petition the Commonwealth to decommission the dam and no further work will be required.