

Town of Barrington
Highway Department
PO Box 660
226 Smoke Street
Barrington, NH 03825



Phone: (603) 664-0166
Website
www.barrington.nh.gov

Swain's Lake Dam Capital Reserve

The Swain's Lake dam continues as it has for over one hundred sixty years, holding back and controlling one of Barrington's greatest natural resources, water. It does its job day and night, year in and year out without much attention. Now it is at a point where it needs some attention in order to continue to guarantee the safety, tranquility, and enjoyment of the Town's residents.

Two years ago, a dive inspection revealed some deterioration in the gate box structure that helps control the level of the lake. Additionally, the State has been calling out the need for a rip rap filter to help mitigate the erosion due to wind and waves pummeling the earthen face of the dam, and carrying away the dirt that makes up most of that face. Both projects need to be done sooner rather than later to ensure that we don't get to a worse situation that will cost even more money. Though the dam is not in any imminent danger, there is water getting in through the granite blocks in the Gate box structure where all the old shotcrete surface has fallen off. Over time, this will mine the dirt out from behind the granite blocks. We are currently having both projects engineered as a package through our town engineers (CMA). Hopeful construction time frame will be after next year's drawdown.

There is currently \$12,500 in the dam budget that was earmarked for shingling at least the part of the gatehouse facing the water. Due to staffing constraints, and a lot of other problems like downed trees from winter storms, and many culvert replacements, the shingling had to be put on hold till next year.

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The current \$12,500 that is in this line will go towards engineering, with another \$12,500 being requested for next year, plus another \$100,000 being requested in the capital reserve for the dam. As far as projected cost for the projects, I have a 1-year-old estimate on the gate box repair of about \$100,000. As far as the rip rap filter, I would anticipate at least \$200,000 because of logistics and tight turnaround time involved because of the drawdown. There could possibly be a conflict between the two jobs because one will be in the way of the other. Engineering will be just south of \$50,000.00. The total of this is a fair amount of money, but we need to look at it as the cost of safety and security for our residents and infrastructure downstream, and the preservation of one of the Town's biggest assets, being the lake and the water that it contains. I would ask the selectboard to approve the request of \$100,000 for the Swain's Lake Dam Capital Reserve Fund.

Respectfully submitted

Marc Moreau