

# **Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District**

## **- Newsletter -**

### **September 2013**

#### **Limited Annual Draw Down To Begin October 13th**

Please plan to **remove your boats and floats from the water by October 13**. This year the annual draw down will start two weeks later than usual, and will be limited to three feet. Limiting the draw down to three feet, rather than the usual five feet, will give the lake the periodic “rest” prescribed by lake management and Conservation Commission standards. The District will, again, coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards, and low level outlet will be used to lower water levels. Our goal will be to reduce the water level at an average rate of two inches per day to achieve the necessary level to start the planned dam repairs described below in early November.

Following dam repairs, the open emergency spillway channel will maintain water levels at between two and two and one half feet below the spillway elevation for the remainder of the winter. The low level outlet will be opened as necessary during the winter to achieve the desired ice and water levels to minimize ice damage to shoreline structures. The flash boards will be reinstalled in the spillway channel after the final ice cap melts in the Spring to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation.

#### **Seepage Control**

Dam repairs completed last Fall stopped the most significant leak through the dam just east of the spillway, and permanently repaired internal damage caused by the leak and resultant sinkhole that occurred in 2011. Visual seepage inspections are routinely performed by your elected officials, and formal dam inspections are periodically performed by Lenard Engineering for the District. There are three outstanding leaks. The first significant leak, to be addressed through planned dam repairs this Fall, is located approximately 25 feet east of the gatehouse. The second significant leak emerges under the spillway cap. This leak is not of great concern because it flows through stone and concrete and does not carry away material from the dam interior. The third leak, located just off the Charles Street end of the dam, is minor and is located where the water level behind the dam is very shallow.

#### **Dam Repair**

The first phase of a multi-year plan to supplement the core wall within the dam was completed last Fall and extended from the spillway to the gatehouse. The next phase of this work will continue in November. The core wall, also referred to as a “berm,” is constructed of impervious clay-like material which prevents water from flowing through the dam. This core wall, located between the upstream face of the dam and the center of the dam crest, is not high enough in some locations to stop water from flowing through the dam when the lake is full. Lenard Engineering has speculated that, following initial dam construction in the mid 1850’s, the spillway was raised to store more water in the lake without also raising the elevation of the core wall. Pending approval from the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, fifty to eighty feet of the dam crest from the gatehouse easterly toward Charles Street will be excavated to expose and supplement the core wall, and to stop the most significant of the three leaks described above.

#### **Candidates For District Official Positions Needed**

Dick Johnston, after serving twenty years as District Clerk, sold his home on the lake and will not seek re-election at the Annual Meeting in May. Wayne Ridley, after serving as member of the Management Committee for 18 years, will also step down in May when his current term expires. Filling these two positions provides the opportunity to infuse some “new blood” in the District’s leadership. Now that the need to fight the lawsuit and to secure long term financing are over, the duties and responsibilities of both these positions have been dramatically reduced.

The District Clerk is elected for a one year term at the Annual Meeting. The responsibility of the incoming District Clerk will be administrative in nature and primarily entail planning Annual Meetings and Management Committee meetings, taking a retaining minutes of these meetings, preparing and mailing periodic newsletters, communicating with Town officials when necessary, and maintaining District records.

Management Committee members are elected to three year terms. The Management Committee currently meets in the evening ten times per year, and participates in Annual Meetings. The Management Committee expects to devote most of their attention in the future to lake management and the upkeep and repair of the dam.

These positions must be filled to continue the important work of the District to maintain a healthy recreational lake and sound dam. Please contact Dick Johnston or another elected official if you would like to know more about these elected positions.

## **Land Below the Dam**

Michael Gorman, Esq., a Holden attorney specializing in real estate matters has been retained by the District to negotiate the purchase of the land below the dam from Raymond E. Shea, Jr.

## **Weed Control**

Many members have commented that more weeds floated up on their shorelines this Summer than ever before, and the proliferation of the Fanwort weeds in the two northern coves continues. The Management Committee engaged the services of the ESS Group of Providence, RI to identify and map the weed population in the lake as the next step in the process of developing plans to control unwanted vegetation.

## **Your Elected Officials Want To Hear From You**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and dam, please contact one of the following elected officials:

Paul Dufresne, Member, Management Committee	508 892-0173	<a href="mailto:pd0173@hotmail.com">pd0173@hotmail.com</a>
Tommy Lee, Chairman, Management Committee	508 892-3750	<a href="mailto:tlee@wjgei.com">tlee@wjgei.com</a>
Wayne Ridley, Vice-Chair, Management Committee	508 892-8684	<a href="mailto:nebackpacker@aol.com">nebackpacker@aol.com</a>
Dick Johnston, District Clerk	<a href="tel:5088921203">508 892-1203</a>	<a href="mailto:Rjohn56503@aol.com">Rjohn56503@aol.com</a>
Terry O’Coin, District Treasurer	<a href="tel:5083476863">508 347-6863</a>	<a href="mailto:the.ocoins@verizon.net">the.ocoins@verizon.net</a>

**Have a Great Fall and Winter**