

TOWN OF WAYLAND
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
MEETING: APRIL 16, 2015 @ 08:30AM
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
MEETING MINUTES – Approved 12/16/15

Members Present:

Jay Abelli (Building), , Brendan Decker (GIS), Fire Chief Dave Houghton (WFD), Ben Keefe (Dir. Facilities), Police Chief Robert Irving (WPD), Julia Junghanns (BOH), , Julie Secord (COA), Doug Leard (LEPC Chair)

Members Absent:

Nan Balmer (Town Adm.) (on vacation), John Senchyshyn (Asst. TA), Stubby Kadlick (DPW), Supt. Paul Stein (Schools) (prior commitment), Leisha Simon (IT Director), Alf Berry (Survey), Joe Gordon (CERT), Ruth Mori (MRC), Pat Morris (Facilities/School)

Other Town Employees Present:

Lt. Patrick Swanick (WPD), Joe Doucette (DPW), Brian Monahan (Conservation)

8:30AM Doug called the meeting to order and thanked Brian Monahan for calling his attention to the Snake Brook Dam (Rice Rd & Woodridge Rd), Brendan Decker for putting together a hydrology-based model for potential water inundation should the dam fail, Chief Houghton for taking current photos of the dam and Chief Irving for his continued support.

8:35AM No public comment

8:40AM A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes of the December 2, 2014 LEPC meeting, seconded and unanimously approved as written.

8:45AM Doug began the discussion showing current photos of the dam and asked Brian Monahan to speak briefly about his knowledge of the dam. Brian submitted to Doug yesterday a “Draft” copy of the Snake Brook Dam Phase 1 Inspection/Evaluation Report, dated August 12, 2012). Brian being most familiar with the dam was asked to speak about what he knew of the dam and its last inspection report. The inspection was conducted by GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. and rated the dam as in “FAIR” condition. GZA estimated that the work needed to upgrade the dam and bring it into compliance would cost between \$395,000 and \$695,000. Although this report was done in 2012 Brian noted that these figures were fairly accurate today. Brian stated that sometime ago the Finance Committee had allocated funds to conduct such work and he was pretty sure the funds still existed. Julie Secord asked Brian, if the funds were available what is it that he needs to move forward. Brian suggested that he needs to find competent and qualified people with expertise in this field.

The dam is owned by the Town of Wayland and operated by the Conservation Commission. The inspection report noted that there should be a “written” Emergency Action Plan should the dam fail, although it is not required for a dam of this classification. “It appears that a failure of the dam at maximum pool may result in damage to homes, property and secondary roads, and

possible loss of life and as a result the Department of Conservation and Recreation classified this dam as a “Significant (Class II) hazard potential dam.” Both Brian and Brendan noted that Brendan’s “Lower Snake Brook Watershed Study” map is difficult to accurately assess the potential damage caused by a dam break without first having a dam break inundation analysis done. Such an analysis would better reflect the potential damage caused by a sudden rupture of the dam and would give a better estimate of impact to area homes, roads, the Loker School, etc. A concern expressed by Doug was GZA’s note that with a dam break there was a potential for “loss of life.” A sudden dam break at 1:00AM as opposed to 8:00AM may bring catastrophic results.

On March 15, 2010 the engineers reported the dam experienced an overtopping flow that was reportedly 3-6 inches deep, and was concentrated near the middle of the dam at a low area on the crest and downstream slope. The flow reportedly traveled overland around the right (west) side of the gatehouse, and joined the spillway discharge channel approximately 100 feet downstream of the dam.

The inspectors noted a potential for very moderate flooding in the area of the school [Loker] in the event of a hypothetical dam failure resulting in the current “Intermediate” hazard classification. However, the extent of flooding cannot be assessed in the absence of a dam break inundation analysis.

In addition to suggested maintenance to the dam, the inspection report noted the need for more formal operational and record keeping at the dam and a suggestion that an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) be developed. Chief Houghton suggested that an EAP could be created and instituted without much difficulty.

In review, the committee felt that in order to better evaluate what path the water would flow should the dam have a “sudden” rupture/failure there is a need for an inundation analysis. With this analysis Wayland would be better able to estimate the risk to people and the potential for damage to homes, Loker School, roads and other infrastructure. Brian suggested that the town had two possible alternatives: (1) to make the requested repairs or (2) potentially eliminate the dam completely, leaving more of a simple stream verses a body of water. Doug Leard suggested that going forward the decisions appeared to fall on the shoulders of the Conservation Department, Conservation Commission and the towns Facilities Director and, like the A.L.I.C.E. Program, Doug recommended Brian bring his proposal to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for review, comment and support.

Doug thanked everyone for coming and for their participation.

9:25AM Meeting adjourned.

Attachments:

Lower Snake Brook Watershed Study
Hydrology Forecasting Model Process
(Both prepared by Brendan Decker)