

From: ROBERT CHAPIN <chapin780@aol.com>
To: sue.look@raymondmaine.org
Cc: board@thomaspond.org
Date: 07/28/2024 08:13 PM
Subject: Question for Town Manager

Dear Sue,

The members and Board of Directors of Thomas Pond Improvement Association (TPIA) respectfully request an opportunity to address the Select Board as soon as possible for the purpose of making a funding appeal for repairs needed to Thomas Pond Dam (also referred to as the Dingley Dam) which controls the pond levels of Thomas Pond. When the State of Maine was divesting themselves of small non-hydro electric dams across the state they determined that Dingley Dam was abandoned and in disrepair and were preparing to remove the dam entirely allowing the pond to lower to its lowest natural level. This would have had and continues to threaten a drastic reduction in property value around the pond. TPIA was formed to assume ownership of the dam and provide for its operation and repair. The State awarded ownership of the dam to TPIA with the understanding that the organization would repair the dam and operate it in accordance with the wishes of the majority of shoreline property owners and back lot property owners with deeded access to the pond. TPIA raised funds to repair and operate the dam. As the organization had no assets to begin with, the towns of Raymond and Casco, where the pond resides, contributed \$7500 each and Casco added some leftover funding they had from a Susquintennial fund and the dam was rebuilt/resurfaced. That was 30+ years ago. The dam now needs another update as sections of concrete have sloughed off the surface exposing the inner core of the dam which is beginning to show the potential for structural damage. We obtained an engineering estimate of what it would take to make expedient repairs in October 2023 from the firm who did the last rebuild 30 years ago and received a rough estimate of \$19,000. We have been running a capital improvement fund raising campaign in 2024 and are prepared to offer a matching grant to each town to assemble the necessary funding to contract for the repairs needed. Given the likely price increase we expect to see, we are targeting a total repair cost of \$25,000. Each town will be asked to come up with \$5000 in grant money and TPIA will come up with the difference to get the work under contract. There are approximately 155 shoreline property owners in Raymond and approximately 255 in Casco, though not all properties have improvements on them. We anticipate that, if successfully supported by the Select Board, we would need to be on a warrant for the 2025 cycle. Thank you for your consideration. Bob Chapin, President and Dam Keeper Hm 207 655-1028, cell 571 217-1700