2023-24 Dam Report

The dam committee has consisted of Board Members Don Schlassberger and Eric Brown as well as NPA member Mike Sullivan for the past year and a half. Since the three of us have been working together one of the things we have been focusing on is tracking the measurement on the meter stick beside the dam. We have been keeping accurate records of the lake level with the goal of trying to figure out the best reading for the lake.

Of course the weather is really what determines when the dam is opened or when the dam is closed. As you may remember the severe storms of October 2023 flooded all of the lakes in the central Maine area. This stretch of rain, combined with the fact that the dam in Belgrade under rt. 27 was under restoration construction, created some difficulty with lake levels during that time.

The water was very low in September last year so we lowered both beams on September 28th. Then the top beam was raised on October 6th and but word downstream was that Great Pond’s Dam construction was not finished yet and Long Pond was 7 inches above full pond status so we waited to fully open the dam. On October 25th we went to raise the bottom beam to fully open the dam but the amount of water rushing over the lower beam made it too dangerous to attempt to raise it. So for a number of reasons we were not able to fully open the dam last fall until Nov. 17th. This is basically 1 month after the normal drawdown date which over the years has been sometime around October 15th. There was just too much water and we were trying to be conscious of the dam construction in Belgrade. Both beams strayed open during the winter.

As spring rolled around, April 26th 2024 we learned that East Pond closed half of their dam and so we dropped the lower beam on April 28th and then dropped the top beam on May 4th. There is a small gap between the two beams so there is always a little water flow out of the lake. We then monitored weather events over the summer and raised the top beam once on June 24th only to lower it again on July 2nd. On July 10th the top beam was raised once more and we left a one inch gap between the beams for extra flow. It has been this way since then.

Each time a change occurs at the dam we notify Nicky at the town office and the greater community on the NPA Facebook page.