

Board of Aldermen Committee Minutes

Date: August 27, 2018	Chair: William Notte	Convened: 5:30pm	Adjourned: 6:40pm
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Committee: Public Safety

Committee Members Present: William Notte, Tom Depoy, Lisa Ryan

Others Present: Matt Whitcomb, Sharon Davis, Paul Clifford, David Allaire, Todd Menees, Steve Libby, Sean Mallon, Dan Susina, Shelly Susina, Lorena Pollock, Rob Jacob, Kathy Jacob

Motions/Discussion: The committee met to hold a second discussion of Dunklee Pond Dam. The mayor informed the committee that since the first meeting had been held in June the dam had overtopped during heavy rainfall and that inspection of the dam showed several large stones had come loose. Additionally it appears the bank along the abutment wall is shifting.

Todd Menees and Steve Libby spoke of the state's desire to remove failing dams—three dams have already been removed in VT this year. It is felt the dam is a significant hazard and it is in poor condition and the culvert just a few yards downstream, which runs under North Main Street, could not meet the challenge of a dam failure and water would overtop onto the roadway.

Mr. Menees and Mr. Libby stated the cost of the project would top \$300,000, with most of the expense coming from the need to keep the sediment trapped by the dam from running downstream during removal. They stated that there were various funds from which the expense of the dam could be covered with the possibility that different funds would cover different expenses during different stages of planning and removal. They stressed there were no funds available to repair the dam. Given all this it was expected to be a "long process with lots of meetings."

Alderman Depoy asked about involving the local National Guard unit as a means of reducing expenses. President Davis asked about a time frame for the project. Assuming it starts this year, the project might be completed through the final monitoring stage by 2021. President Davis also asked if in-kind services by city departments could count as the local match needed for many grants. The answer to this question is yes. The committee also discussed addressing the culvert near the dam as a means of addressing the problem and Mayor Allaire shared that it would be more expensive (\$500,000 or more) to change the culvert and doing so would not address the risk of flooding downstream from a dam failure.

Mr. Menees and Mr. Libby also spoke about Act 185, which would allow for the dam removal to be funded (as a water quality improvement project) at no additional expense to city taxpayers when Rutland does a sewage treatment plant project. Mr. Menees stated Rutland could be a pilot project for this act.

While the committee wants to be kept informed as the project moves forward—and the mayor assured that this would be the case—it was recognized that the majority of the planning and organization of this project would need to rest with the mayor and city departments. Therefore, the following motion was made by Alderwoman Ryan:

Move to recognize that Dunklee Pond dam and abutment walls are a public safety hazard and encourage the mayor to work with city departments and state organizations to plan for removal of the dam and funding sources for all stages of the project.

The motion passed 3-0 (with President Davis making the quorum as Alderman Depoy had to depart shortly before meeting's end).