

# Panther Pond Association



*An organization of residents and friends of Panther Pond,  
dedicated to protecting one of Maine's finest small lakes.*

## **Update and more detail on Mill Street Dam reconstruction**

September 4, 2023

We understand that there are questions about the dam reconstruction, and all know that there could be some inconvenience. No time is ever a good time, but this work is needed, and the state is working diligently to create a well thought out design with the least disruption. We are extremely fortunate to have the project fully funded and should feel that we will have a very solid dam that should be good for many years to come. A failed dam could leave us with challenges for years instead of weeks for the planned reconstruction. We wanted to give members an update on the dam reconstruction project to insure you had the correct information. At this point, the state is preparing the project to go out for bid this fall. As we understand it:

1. The plan is to lower the lake level to 279.5 feet above sea level based on the gage on the dam with lowering to start right after Memorial Day 2024. 279.5 is 12" below our normal target level. If you want to understand that better, go down to the dam, look at the gage (looking from outside the side fence on the west, downstream side and record the number. Deduct 279.5' from that number then go back to your home and measure that difference from your existing water depth. An example is today, September 4, the gage at the dam = approx. 280.7 feet thus at today's level, the lowered level target will be approx. 13" lower than today.
2. The contractor, managed by the state IF&W Engineering Manager, will do their best to maintain that level, but mother nature will dictate that. As you likely saw this year, the excessive rain had the level way up and a drought could reduce it.
3. Once the lake is lowered to that level, they expect to maintain that lowered level for 6-8 weeks utilizing a large pump that will be in place just above the dam pumping the discharge water around the dam.
4. If we don't get normal rain, the lake could drop further before allowing mother nature to start to refill starting somewhere between July 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> back to the target level of 280.5' above sea level.
5. Of course, if we have excessive rain in May and the lake is overly full / high, the drawdown could take slightly longer and delay the construction. With the dam gate wide open currently, the lake drops approx. 1" per day.

As things are quite early in the process, this is the best info we have received so far. The state has suggested and will likely hold an informational meeting in April or May to give us all a clearer picture after the contract has been awarded and the targeted schedule is created. As we learn more info, PPA will launch an e-mail to our members and will post that on the Facebook page and on the Webpage.

*Preserving Panther Pond One Person at a Time.*

*PPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

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