

# The Newport Daily Express



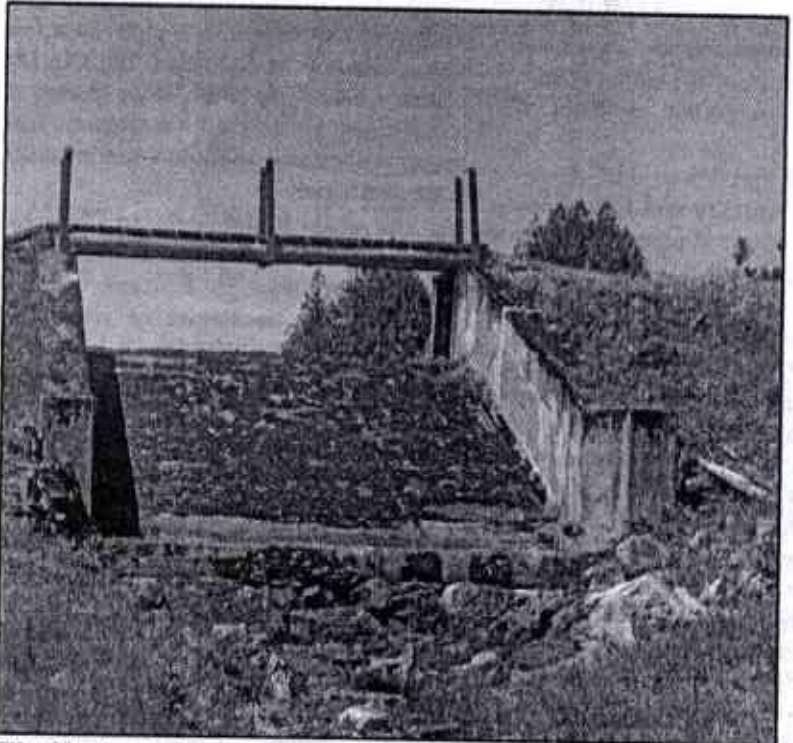
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## Barton Selectboard Supports Shadow Lake Dam Repair



The Shadow Lake dam is rated a significant hazard following flooding events in 2023 and 2024, causing a breach in the dam. The Town of Glover has taken remedial action to mitigate the damage until the dam can be rebuilt. (File photo by Ed Barber)

**ED BARBER**  
Staff Writer

BARTON - The Barton Selectboard agreed to support the Town of Glover's request for inclusion in the Regional Project Prioritization, a potential funding source to repair the Shadow Lake Dam. As a part of the application process for a grant, Glover needs adjacent towns to support the reconstruction of the dam to preserve the local economy.

At the Barton Selectboard meeting held last Wednesday morning, Glover's town administrator Theresa Perron and Pat Moulton, who provides support for flood recovery projects, gave the selectboard a background history of the dam, the damage, and the steps taken to mitigate the damage.

In 2023 and 2024 a series of extreme weather events caused the historic dam to fail. As Perron described it, during the flooding in July of 2023, water compromised the embankment as water flowed under the granite blocks creating a five foot deep sink hole in the secondary spill gate. A second sink hole was created during subsequent flooding events.

The town selectboard contacted Ben Green with the Vermont Dam Safety division to assess the damage. Engineers from Weston and Sampson were hired to develop alternatives to repair the dam. In the meantime, Green directed the level of the lake remain two feet below normal to relieve pressure on the dam's infrastructure.

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# Shadow Lake Dam

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One of the plans presented by the engineering firm included an option that had a lower lake level, which the Shadow Lake Association members opposed.

"Then there was the drought (2025) which dropped the lake level even more," Perron said. She said a new compromise proposal would permanently lower the lake level by one foot.

The town has temporarily fixed the problem, eliminating secondary seepage, but Perron said the lower lake level plays a factor.

"I have not asked for anything (financially)," Perron said. "Just a letter of support."

Perron has been working on finding grants to fund the repair. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has paid 70 percent of the engineering costs to date. More funds will be forthcoming as the project progresses. The town needs permits, engineering, and funds for construction.

"FEMA will fund a portion of the repair; the town has a 12.5 percent obligation," Moulton said. "This is considered a significant hazard versus a high hazard."

Moulton said there is funding through National Resource Conservation for high hazards, not significant hazards. She has turned to economic development grants as an alternative. Moulton said businesses in the area have been heavily impacted by the flood. One example is the loss of the restaurant Parson's Corner, which was heavily damaged in 2023. The property in Barton is in a flood zone adjacent to the Barton River. They are conducting a survey of businesses that were damaged or have loss of revenue due to the

2023 and 2024 floods. The information will be a part of the rationale as to why the town should be able to access funds from the Regional Project Prioritization program.

If the 2023 and 2024 flood damage was bad, imagine the impact of the Shadow Lake dam giving out. Moulton said repairing the dam impacts retaining jobs that could be lost in a major flood event.

Perron asked the Barton selectboard for a letter of support to send to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association for inclusion in their request to the Regional Project Prioritization program.

"As you know, our town is located on the Barton River downstream of Glover and Shadow Lake dam," the letter states. "We have already experienced catastrophic flooding in 2023, 2024, and 2025 (prior to the drought) from excessive rain."

The result was a loss of homes, especially on Route 16, businesses, critical infrastructure, and other properties. Some businesses moved out of town and residents moved to temporary housing while their homes were repaired. A dam failure will create economic hardship and a loss of jobs in Barton, Moulton stated.

The letter referenced the Runaway Pond event in 1810 which caused major damage in Glover. Barton and other communities as the Barton River flowed north to Lake Memphre-

magog.  
Securing  
funding  
to repair  
the dam

will benefit Barton, and therefore the selectboard supports the Town of Glover's effort to raise funds for the project.

The selectboard signed the letter on behalf of the Town of Glover.