



Press Release

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Derry, NH – March 29, 2016

Hood Pond Dam/Derry Rail Trail Extension

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has recently changed the hazard classification of the Hood Pond Dam which is owned by the Town of Derry. NHDES had requested updated hydraulic calculations to determine whether the dam meets a higher level standard to pass 2.5 times the flow of a 100 year storm. Based on the preliminary calculations submitted to NHDES, the dam does not meet this standard and the Town of Derry will be required to modify the elevation of the existing earthen dam along the western side of Hood Pond. The Town would like to reassure the public that the dam is structurally sound and it has ample capacity for a 100 year storm, a requirement under the former hazard classification.

The Town of Derry will be contracting with a consulting engineer to provide NHDES with a proposed dam modification plan. Once approved, the Town of Derry will seek to proceed with construction within the timeframes allowed by NHDES. The design and approval process may take up to six months to complete. Preliminarily, the dam modification design will likely feature added fill on the northern side of the dam and removal of several feet of fill closest to the parking lot at Hood Park.

The Department of Public Works had originally sought to initiate construction on an 1800 foot long extension of the Derry Rail Trail between Hood Park and North High Street. This construction was slated to begin in early summer 2016, but this work has been delayed until the dam modification plan is approved. The Town will seek to pave the Rail Trail concurrently with the dam modification work.

If there are any specific questions regarding this press release, please contact the DPW office at 603-432-6144.

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