

## FUND THE MARANACOOK DAM



On Readfield's secret ballot last June, appropriations for the Maranacook Dam were combined with other unrelated appropriations. The Readfield Budget Committee opposed the other appropriations, so the ballot showed a "no" recommendation from the Budget Committee for the entire article, and it was defeated. Because both the Committee and the Board believed this "no" recommendation might have been misleading, though technically accurate, the Board has placed funding for the Maranacook Dam on the September 1 ballot as separate items, articles 5 and 6. **Both the Readfield Select Board and the Budget Committee have always been in favor of the expenditures in both of these articles.**

### ARTICLE

# 5

authorizes the expenditure of funds set aside for the dam previously. The expenditure is for engineering. No new tax dollars are raised.

### ARTICLE

# 6

raises \$20,000 intended to be spent at a later time. The idea is to accumulate funds over time so that one year's budget is not hit with the entire expense when the actual dam construction occurs.

## Not familiar with the history?

### Here's a brief summary:

In 1995, a private company owned and rebuilt the current Maranacook Lake dam. The design proved to be flawed and the construction did not follow the flawed design. In 2006 an "inexpensive" improvement was attempted. A section of dam was cut down 15 inches to bring it closer to conformity with the original inadequate design. The alteration helped but did not solve the problem.

### What's wrong:

The dam gate is almost always wide open and has been wide open for the last 3.5 years. There is no way to control the water level in the lake. The level cannot be lowered in anticipation of excessive rain, and it cannot be lowered fast enough during a rain. Fortunately, we have not had excessive inflows and our flooding has been moderate.

## Right Now

Currently, the dam is owned jointly by the towns of Readfield and Winthrop. Coordinating through a joint committee formed in 2013, the towns prepared an initial study to accurately determine the requirements for the dam. Each town has been saving money in preparation for the time when construction would happen. About \$54,000 has been set aside for future construction or spent on preliminary engineering. It does not make economic sense to abandon our commitment so far into the project. Winthrop has already set aside its yearly share and approved expenditure for the final engineering study. If Readfield approves its share (articles 5&6), the project will not be delayed further and construction can begin in 2017. **Please vote YES on articles 5 and 6 on the September 1 ballot.**

## Alaska has oil. We have Maranacook!

### Uncontrolled lake levels cause:

#### Environmental problems:

- Flooding
- Shoreline erosion
- Low water clarity

#### Economic problems

follow environmental problems:

- Lower property values
- Decreased tax revenues that the towns depend on

## Comments - Questions

Contact the  
Maranacook Lake  
Outlet Dam Committee

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