

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
12:00 PM

July 10, 2023

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Michael Blaudschun, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Absent: Don Carlisle

Others attending: J. Pfister, R. Popovic, D. Walton, K. Robbins, V. Pepin, J. Largier, J. Sarcione, M. Tarr, J. Filipi, T. Newcombe, B. Roeder

Brenna called the July 10, 2023 Emergency meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 12:14 PM.

● Following several days of rain, and intermittent storms still continuing, the ground, lakes, streams and ponds have reached a water level and overflow that has resulted in extreme road and property damage and is now a threat to the Granite Lake Dam and its ability to safely contain the water. All present agreed that the situation is dire. If the Dam experiences a complete failure this would pose a life-threatening danger to anyone in the path of the surging water. Home and property damage would be considerable in the path of uncontrolled water flow.

School Board Chair, R. Popovic was in attendance as the school has had previous water issues in the basement and it too may be impacted by the Dam's ability to maintain some control of the water flow.

Members of the Granite Lake Association and individuals responsible for the care and maintenance of the Dam report that, although the "gate" has been fully opened for 10 days it has not been enough to handle the water flow due to the storm's intensity and continuation. The dam is designed to release the holding pins when the water level and pressure reaches a certain point thus allowing the boards to exit their holding position. Currently, to increase the water flow, two levels of boards were removed but the water continues to rise rapidly and the "breakaway" is still holding thus allowing for water and pressure to build behind the Dam. A plan to try to cut away at least two more of the remaining Boards is being considered to release more water in a (somewhat) controlled manner. Troy Tucker has offered to attempt this task. Fire Chief J. Sarcione expressed concern that this will pose a safety risk but the boards should be removed. It was suggested that an engineer be consulted to review the situation and consider the risks. B. Roeder left to make a call to State Dam officials for advice on how to proceed.

Upon returning, he reported that the official opinion was to remove the boards as previously discussed.

The Select Board agreed and asked the GLA and Dam officials to proceed with their plan at once. The Fire Chief was asked to notify all Fire and Rescue personnel to report and stand by during this process.

The Police Chief was asked to notify all property owners and alert anyone in the expected path of the anticipated increased water flow.

The Select Board members and Emergency Management Director will be in attendance during this attempt to remove additional boards from the Dam.

As everyone began to disperse, discussion continued including the various elements that are contributing to the erosion damage during this type of rain event such as lack of mitigation of water flowing down from Rt. 9.

Everyone exited the meeting to begin implementing the plan.

Meeting Adjourned 1:02 PM

Minutes for July 10, 2023

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman