

6/27/2020

Subject: Penn Lake Dam-Status update #1

Penn Lake Borough Council recently mailed out a newsletter to the people of Penn Lake, which mentioned the formation of an advisory group of citizens to help with issues related to the DEP classification of the dam as “hazardous”, and subsequent response by the borough. The advisory group was formed in the first week of May with the following members: Dan Cronauer, Dave DiPipi, Dan George, Rick Jones, Pat McElhenny, and Lisa Stuart. This group has significant engineering, finance, and construction experience. To date, the group has:

- Conducted a remote “live meeting” to discuss preliminary cost numbers, repair scenarios, and funding alternatives
- Reviewed council's submission to the DEP related to the borough's response to the hazardous classification
- Reviewed a FEMA grant submission
- Had face to face meeting with Borton-Lawson engineer and councilman Rogan to discuss the current status of Borton-Lawson's preparation of repair alternatives and opinions of probable costs

Based on these activities, the advisory group would like to communicate the following:

- Preservation of the lake is priority number 1. The DEP has a track record of draining lakes. While we recognize the lake may need to be drained on a short term basis to perform needed repairs, long term drainage (loosing the lake) needs to be avoided, and cannot be an option.
- Borton-Lawson will be producing a complete engineering assessment by the end of July for review by the DEP.
- We anticipate a meeting with the DEP in mid-August to discuss repair alternatives, timelines, and costs
- We anticipate having public information session(s) in late August. Note that these sessions may be at the community house, or perhaps by remote access if safety dictates.
- We expect that there will be a tax increase, with a question on the ballot in November.
- We feel that it's important to understand how modest the current Penn Lake tax is. The current rate is .6 mils. The average improved property at Penn Lake is approximately \$184,000 based on end of year 2018 tax information. This translates to a borough tax of \$110 per year.
- We will communicate new information as it becomes available in the “dam information” section of [www.pennlakeborough.com](http://www.pennlakeborough.com). You can also use the “Contact Us” link on that site with further questions.

Thank you,  
Penn Lake Dam Advisory Group