

**BELGRADE AREA DAMS COMMITTEE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING: RAIN EVENT, SNOWMOBILING CONCERNS**  
**January 22nd, 2018 @ 4:00 PM**

Attending were: Chmn. Doug McCafferty, Town Mgr. Denny Keschl, Tim Comeford, Kerry Oliver, Craig Alexander, Tom Bennett, Mike Heino, Don Borman, Jack Schultz, guest Calvin Neal (Essex Hydro) and Secretary Dick Greenan.

Meeting called to order by Chmn. Doug McCafferty at 4:00pm at the Belgrade Town Office.

1. Dick made a motion to accept the January 8th, 2017 minutes with a 2nd by Tim. With the deletion of Craig from the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting attendees, minutes unanimously approved.
2. Denny introduced the Committee members to the approximately ten members of the public.
3. Regarding current Dams levels: Doug stated Salmon was 277.65” or 7” below full pond whereby the optimum for this time of year is 278.0. Stated that Salmon shot up 10” with the 4.5” of rain the previous week. Doug further stated that he is trying to maintain Salmon at 1 ft. below full or 10 turns. Tim stated GP was 8.5” below full with Gate 1 opened 2’. Dick stated Wings Mill was 11.52” below full with both gates still wide open at 6’.
4. Regarding maintenance issues, Dick stated there was no maintenance required at WM. Tim stated that Belgrade has already been deiced twice this winter and most likely will require another. Doug stated there was no maintenance required at Salmon.
5. Denny stated that Al Hodsdon of A.E. Hodsdon Consulting Engineers should have the DEP permit filed later this week.
6. Craig presented his concerns over “dumping water at the Belgrade Dam”, its effect on raising the water level in Long Pond and as a result undermining the condition of the ice, adding to its instability for snowmobile recreation. In response, Doug, Tim and Dick presented the published winter storage strategy for Salmon, GP and LP respectively. There was a great amount of discussion from the public and committee regarding the efficacy of the current winter storage strategy in place since 1985 especially as it pertained to its effect on the instability of the ice for snowmobiling. The incident of two local teenagers who went through the ice in the stream below

Long Pond's Ingham Stream on the night of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was discussed. As a result of the discussion, it was decided that:

a. Craig will develop appropriate signage to be placed at 20 or so sites in the Belgrades where existing snowmobile trails border the respective water bodies. The Dams Committee will be tasked with ordering and paying for the signs. The snowmobile clubs will be responsible for placing and removing the signs.

b. Craig to provide Dick with the email addresses of the local snowmobile organizations in order to email blast bulletins on dam operations required by unique weather conditions.

c. Following the forecast of rain for Tuesday Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> and the possible ensuing dam operations, it was agreed that an attempt would be made to slow down the flow at the Belgrade Dam as much as possible.

d. Dick was to add the entire Dams Committee in addition to Town Manager Denny Keschl and Selectman Mike Barrett to the daily Essex Hydro Data Logger communication.

7. Craig made a motion to "try not to go over a 3' opening at the Belgrade Dam with a rain event when possible. If Great Pond comes up too quickly, the Gate is to be raised to 4' followed by a slow release back to the optimum water level." With a 2<sup>nd</sup> my Mike, the motion was passed unanimously.

8. Next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 4pm.

9. Doug made motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim, unanimously approved at 5:44pm.