



## Forest Lake Improvement Association Inc. Dam Mitigation Program September 2020 – April 2025

In November the BOD presented a request to the Selectmen for a \$ 100,000 warrant article in support of the dam construction phase. The Select Board was generally in favor of the request but felt that at the 100k number the request had a greater opportunity to be voted down. They recommended a 50K number on the basis that it is better to win at 50 than lose at 100.

Here are some of the talking points that were presented, along with a list of other statistical facts provided by letter in advance.

1. THE FLIA MAINTAINS CLOSE WATCH ON FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT HAVE A BENEFIT TO US IN FUNDING THE RECOVERY OF THE DAM. YES, THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS HAS 7.5 BILLION DOLLARS FOR LOW COST LOANS TO HELP FUND DAM WORK IN THE US. BUT, THIS MONEY IS AVAILABLE FOR PROJECTS STARTING AT 20 MILLION OR MORE, OR FOR HIGH HAZARD DAMS OR MUNICIPAL & STATE OWNED DAMS.

2. WE HAVE ACTIVELY PURSUED:

- a. CONGRESSIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING PROGRAMS VIA OUR DELEGATION
- b. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS
- c. FEMA MITIGATION AND FEMA DISASTER RELIEF
- d. NH DAM REHABILITATION / REMOVAL GRANT PROGRAM,

*We do not qualify for any of these programs because we are not preventing costly flood damage, restoring lost or damaged eco systems or refurbishing a power generation dam.*

3. WHEN THE STATE DOES ANNOUNCE THEY HAVE SOME MONEY, IT GENERALLY COMES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IS PRE-ASSIGNED TO PROJECTS, WITH ALL THE SAME QUALIFIERS.

4. BUSINESSES IN TOWN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CAMPGROUND, HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE OPERATION OF THE LAKE IS OF VALUE TO THEIR ANNUAL SALES AND THAT IN 2023 THE BREECH HAD SOME IMPACT ON SALES.

5. WHY CAN'T THE TOWN BEACH PROGRAM BE SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT WITH SOME FUNDING OF THEIR OWN. NO OTHER ORGANIZATION SHOULD HAVE A GREATER INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF THE LAKE.

6. THE FLIA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS HAVE RAISED OVER \$300,000 TO DATE HOWEVER, ONE CANNOT CONTINUOUSLY KEEP RETURNING TO THE SOURCE WITHOUT RUNNING OUT.

7. IF WE ARE FORCED TO DELAY THIS PROJECT DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING, THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE.

8. AS STATED IN OUR LETTER, THE MEMBERS OF THE FLIA PAY OVER A MILLION DOLLARS IN TAXES WITH MINIMAL DRAW ON SCHOOL, ROAD, SEWER AND OTHER TOWN SERVICES.

*John Danahy*  
John Danahy  
President

*Dave Johnson*  
Dave Johnson  
Vice President



**Forest Lake Improvement Association Inc.  
Dam Mitigation Program  
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**KEY STATISTICS GIVEN TO THE TOWN, WARRANT ARTICLE 2024**

The Forest Lake Improvement Association Inc. is made up of 115 families, businesses, and the town, representing 156 deeds in Winchester.

The town of Winchester is the deed holder for four parcels of land on the shoreline of Forest Lake, including a public beach, activities center, and a picnic & fishing site.

57% of the property owners around the lake are Cheshire County residents, a significant change from years past.

None of these properties use the town's sewer system. Town water is available to all; however, a few owners still use a well by choice.

Six of the roads that make up the lake community are private and do not draw on town services for snow removal and DPW services.

Only two families have children in the school system.

Overall valuation is \$ 30,079,283 with a tax contribution of \$1,048,058.64

Since 2022 the membership and friends of the FLIA have donated JUST OVER \$ 300,000 toward the dam program. ( Winchester contributed and additional \$ 25,000 in 2022 )

The flood of July 2023 has created an additional cost impact to the overall project of \$ 45,000

The FLIA provides 90% of the manhours needed for management of the lake on an annual basis. ( not including the town beach ).

Annual operational costs for the dam are paid for by the lake association which include dam registration, annual maintenance, and other needs included in state programs. This sum can reach \$ 4,000 annually.

The FLIA and the town pay for milfoil management, equally, with aid from the state. All of the manhours for managing the milfoil grants, harvesting and other activities are provided by the FLIA.

Water testing is paid for by the town and administered by the lake association.

The town of Winchester publicizes in print and online the value of fishing, boating, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, and ice fishing on Forest Lake.

Money from this warrant article would be paid by the town directly to dam contractors after presentation of invoices and joint review by the town and the FLIA. The FLIA will never be in possession of these funds.