



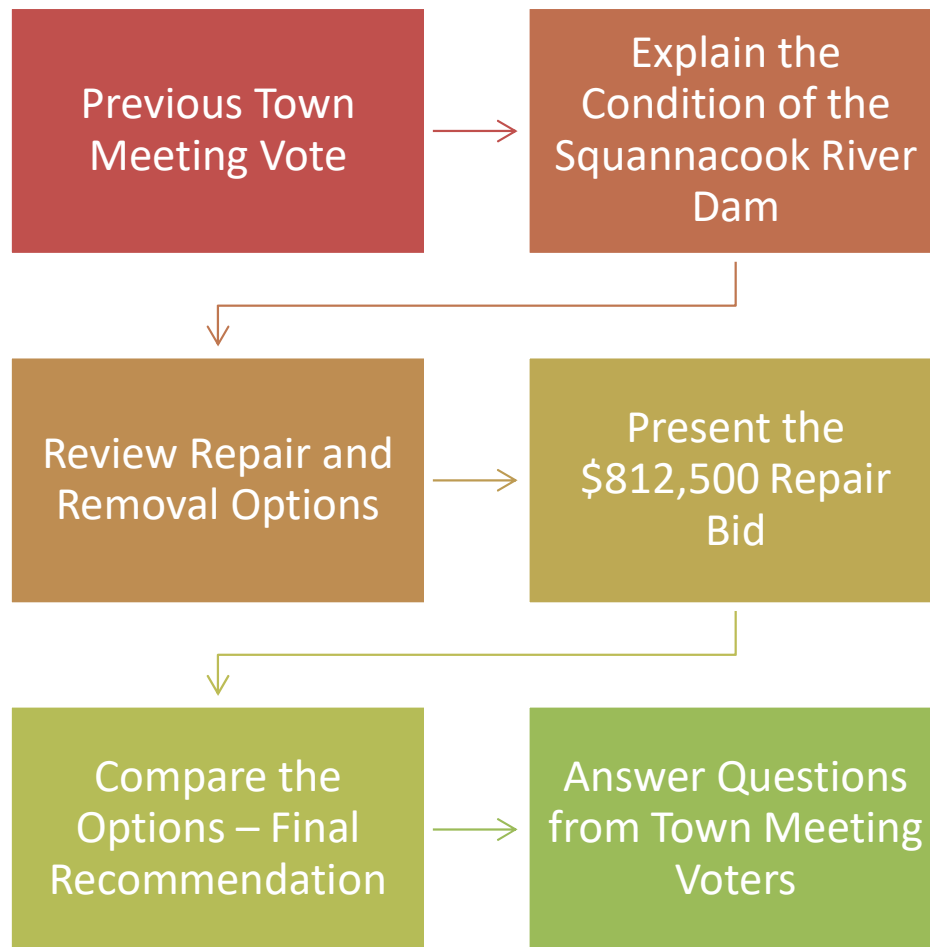
Squannacook River Dam

Proposed Dam Repair Project
2026 Spring Town Meeting
Town of Groton, Massachusetts





Summary of Presentation





Location of Squannacook River Dam

Previous Town Meeting Vote

2024 Fall Town Meeting
Appropriated \$160,250 to hire
necessary professionals to
determine the costs and impacts
for both the removal and repair of
the Squannacook River Dam

Haley & Aldrich, Inc. was hired to
develop plans and specifications
for the Repair of the Dam

Horsley Witten Group was hired
to determine the
feasibility/process to remove the
Dam





Ownership and Jurisdiction

- Dam Structure Sits Directly on Groton–Shirley Town Line
- Groton Owns One Portion of the Structure
- Opposite Side Privately Owned and Currently in Tax Title
- Shared Structure Complicates Long-term Management

Engineering Condition Assessment

- Professional Inspection Completed by Haley & Aldrich
- Dam Condition Rated as FAIR Overall
- Localized Deterioration Identified
- Repairs Required to Ensure Long-term Stability



Current Condition of the Dam

- Groton Side of Dam Repaired in 2013 at a Cost of \$500,000. Work Included Concrete Rehabilitation and Structural Repairs to Keep the Dam Compliant with State Dam-Safety Requirements.
- Splash Pad Needs Replacement.
- Cracking and Spauling (flaking) on Shirley Side of Dam.
- Shirley Side of Dam Requires Repair.
- Repair Retaining Wall on Shirley Side of River.



Scope of Proposed Dam Repairs

- Concrete structural stabilization
- Repair deteriorated spillway components
- Training wall repairs
- Vegetation removal and debris control
- Engineering oversight and inspection





Benefits of Repair

- Preserves West Groton Pond
- Maintains Historic Character of West Groton Village
- Protects Recreation and Community Value
- Addresses Structural Safety Concerns

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Dam Removal Option

Remove Existing
Structure

Restores One-Mile of
Natural River Channel

Stabilize Riverbanks and
Sediment

Extensive Environmental
Permitting Required

Potential Benefits of Removal

- Eliminates Long-term Dam Liability and Risk
- Restores One-Mile of Free-flowing River
- Improves Aquatic Habitat
- Eliminates Future Maintenance

Potential Concerns with Removal

- Loss of West Groton Pond
- Significant change to Historic Village Landscape
- Temporary Construction Disruption
- Changes to Local Recreation Opportunities
- Uncertainty with What Replaces Pond





Why the Town Must Act



- Public Safety and Structural Risk Reduction
- Structural Deterioration has been Identified
- Massachusetts Dam Safety Regulations Require Action
- Preservation of Water Storage and Flood Control
- Protection of Existing Ecosystems



What Happens if We Do Nothing

- Structural Deterioration Continues
- Future Repair Costs Increase
- State Regulators Will Require Action
- The Town Faces Increased Liability Should the Dam Fail





Construction Bid Results

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>BID</u>
R. BATES & SONS, INC. STERLING, MA	\$ 502,500
LUCIANOS EXCAVATION TAUNTON, MA	\$ 513,938
T. FORD COMPANY, INC GEORGETOWN, MA	\$ 546,445
NEW ENGLAND INFRASTRUCTURE, INC HUDSON, MA	\$1,145,000
DEFELICE CORPORATION DRACUT, MA	\$1,164,000
MASS BUILDING & BRIDGE, INC. NORFOLK, MA	\$1,177,500
UEL CONTRACTORS CLINTON, MA	\$1,365,000
SUMCO ECO CONTRACTING WAKEFIELD, MA	\$1,421,496



TOTAL COST OF REPAIR

- **Base Bid** **\$502,500**
- **Engineering Oversight** **\$ 60,000**
- **Contingency** **\$250,000**
 - Includes \$150,000 for Water Control
 - Includes \$100,000 for Unforeseen
- **Total Request** **\$812,500**

Repair vs Removal Comparison

Category	Repair Dam	Remove Dam
Upfront Cost	\$812,500 Expense – Total Cost Covered by Town	Higher Construction Cost Expected (\$1.7 million to \$2 million) – Could Be Offset By Grant Funding
Pond	Preserved	Eliminated
Village Character	Maintained	Significant Change
Future Liability	Continues with Maintenance	Eliminated
Environmental Impact	Minimal Change	River Restoration

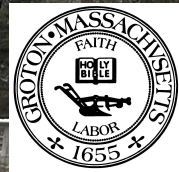
Total Cost - \$812,500

Funding the Repair

- This Article Requests Funding as follows:
- CPA Historic Reserve Appropriation - \$133,000
- Bond Issue in the Amount of \$679,500

No Increase in Taxes

- Bond Paid Back over ten (10) years as follows:
- Anticipated Annual Debt Service - \$95,000
 - \$45,000 Annual Contribution from CPA Historic Reserve
 - \$50,000 Annual Contribution from Capital Budget



Recommendation

- **Proceed with Repairing the Squannacook River Dam**
- **Accept Construction Bid, Plus Contingency – Appropriate \$812,500**
- **Submit Special Act to the Legislature Seeking Authorization to Obtain the Shirley Side of Dam**



Town Meeting Approval Needed to Appropriate Funds from the CPA Historic Reserve (\$133,000 in FY 2027) and to Borrow Remaining Funds (\$679,500) – 2/3s Majority Required

Town Meeting Approval Needed to Submit Special Act to the State Legislature Authorizing the Town of Groton to Obtain the Town of Shirley Side of the Dam

If Approved at Town Meeting, the Town will Proceed with the Repairs and Submit Special Act to the Legislature

Should Town Meeting Reject Funding the Repair, the Select Board will evaluate moving forward with the Removal of the Dam

Approval Process

SQUANNACOOK RIVER DAM

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

Contact townmanager@grotonma.gov

For More Information

